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Comics INTERNATIONAL

Issue 37 November 1993 | The Comics Industry Monthly | 104 pages 50p / $1.25

New creator-owned imprint lures top writers and artists

After Image: Malibu launches Bravura

BRAVURA is a new publishing imprint from Malibu featuring the creator-owned work of such Marvel and DC top names as Norm Breyfogle, Howard Chaykin, Peter David, Dan Jurgens, Gil Kane, Walter Simonson and Jim Starlin.

In March 1992, Malibu surprised the comics industry with its launch of a line of creator-owned titles from top Marvel artists under the Image Comics banner.

Now, while Image struggles to maintain deadlines under its own management, Malibu launches a second line of creator-controlled titles with Bravura.

"A corporation doesn't create memorable characters, creators do"
–Malibu's Tom Mason

Currently Marvel's Epic comics are facing severe cutbacks, Image has cancelled its non-core books and consolidation appears to be the main aim for most publishing companies. Malibu's growth at such a time has attracted a wide array of popular writers and artists for its new monthly line of full-colour titles.

● Jim Starlin leaves his familiar territory of cosmic Marvel adventures to write and draw a January-launching 40-page 6-issue mini-series, **'Breed**, a violent tale of a creature conceived by woman and demon. Starlin is also working with Peter David and Ernie Colon on a six-issue revival of **Dreadstar**.

● Howard Chaykin tells of an elite squad of CIA-created super-beings in **Power & Glory**, a 32-page 4-issue series, set to launch in February.

● **Deuce** will be a 4-issue title from Dan Jurgens, combining space opera, science fiction and 'real life' fiction, while in **Edge** Steven Grant and Gil Kane look at corruption and tragedy in a super-group known as The Ultimates .

● Walter Simonson revives his Epic-launched space-troopers in the five-issue **Star Slammers** and Norm Breyfogle explores "Zen and the art of kicking butt" in the six-issue **Metaphysique**.

● Marv Wolfman and Shawn McManus unite to explore the crime-riddled city of Bedlam and its nemesis, the heavily-armed and nigh-impervious **Man Called A•X**.

● Daniel Brereton presents a group of non-human night creatures led by the twisted genius of Doc Horror in the six-part series **The Nocturnals**.

*Boosted by the Barry Windsor-Smith **Rune** serial in the current issues, Malibu's Ultraverse titles go through a **Unity**-like transition in December as George Perez illustrates **Breakthru** (above), a 2-issue bookend series exploring the origins of the ultra-heroes and leading into crossover stories throughout the 12 Ultraverse titles.*

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Published monthly as an independent trade paper for the comics industry. Editor and publisher: Derek G. Skinn. Associate editor: Sarah Bolesworth. Copy editor: Phil Hall. Production assistance: Richard Bendell.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

UK & Ireland: £12.00 for 12 issues.
USA & Canada: $60 US for 12 issues (air).
Mainland Europe: £20 for 12 issues.

Make all payments to Comics International at: Comics International, (Subscriptions Dept), 8 Galliford Road, Maldon, Essex CM9 7XD

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A Quality Communications magazine

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DC expands Superman family

FOLLOWING the success of the *Reign of the Supermen* series, DC is expanding its Superman line with two new ongoing series, three mini-series and a one-shot prestige book.

Black construction worker John Henry Irons, who replaced the temporarily deceased Kryptonian in **Superman: The Man of Steel** will feature in the new ongoing title, **Steel**.

The series, written by Louise Simonson, is set in Washington DC, and is drawn by Jon Bogdanove and Chris Batista. The first issue ships on December 28th and will retail at $1.50.

The boy Superman — who, it is suggested, is a clone of the original — is to undergo a subtle name change. With the return of the true Man of Steel, the clone is to be transformed into an all-new Superboy by the creative team of Tom Grummett and Karl Kesel.

In his new ongoing series, the Man of Steel's clone is forced to leave Metropolis and chooses the Pacific archipelago of Hawaii as a suitable home — which also, naturally is in need of his protection.

Superboy 1 ships on December 14th and retails at $1.50.

Supergirl's new limited series will also be available in December. The title is written by Roger Stern, with layouts by June Brigman and inks by Jackson Guice.

The **Supergirl** series will see a significant development in the Girl of Steel's life, exploring her relationship with Lex Luthor II and charting her realisation that the man of her dreams is in fact a ruthless, cold-blooded crook.

Supergirl 1 ships on December 21st and retails at $1.50.

Legends of the World's Finest is a new three-issue, 48-page prestige format series, with an untold tale from Superman and Batman's shared past.

Written by Walt Simonson with fully painted art from Dan (Psycho) Brereton, the first issue — with foil-enhanced cover — ships on January 4th, 1994 and will retail for $4.95.

Superman: Under a Yellow Sun is a 64-page prestige format one-shot chronicling a complex Clark Kent adventure.

Under a Yellow Sun is divided into two narratives: the first is seen from Clark's point of view as he contends with a Lex Luthor-directed gang war while trying to write a novel on a sabbatical. The second is taken from Clark's novel itself, and tells the story of a man who makes a deal with a dangerous corporate magnate bent on taking over a Caribbean island.

The stand-alone title is written by X-Men 2099's John Francis Moore, with two art teams — Kerry Gammil and Dennis Janke for the Superman and Clark Kent sequences, and Eduardo (**Superman: Speeding Bullets**) Barreto for the novel's visualisation.

Retailing for $5.95 **Superman: Under a Yellow Sun** will ship on January 25th, 1994.

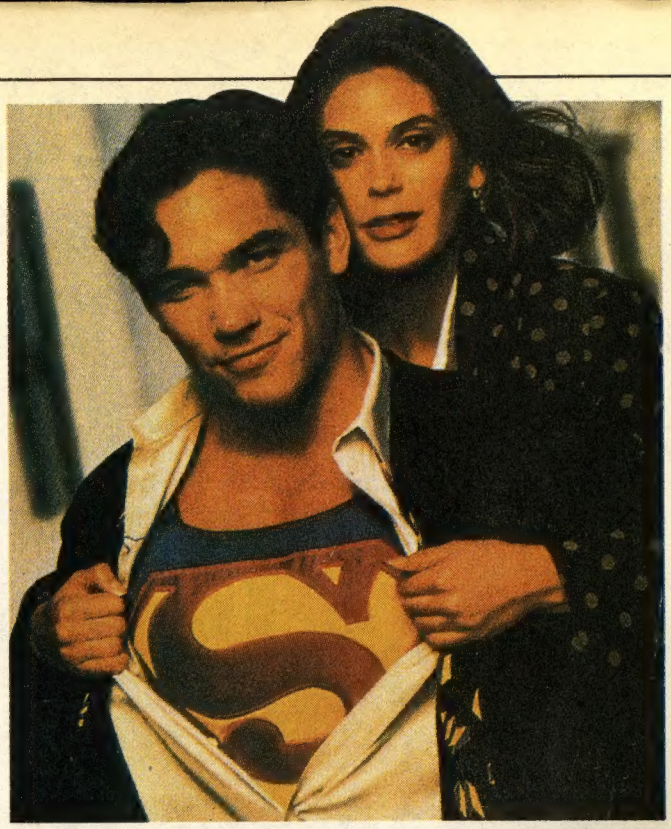
Superman: The Man of Steel 30 will feature a unique cover enhancement, a first in comic-book history. The direct market edition will come polybagged with vinyl cling figures of both Superman and antagonist Lobo. These are detachable and can seemingly be manipulated, thus enabling readers to "choreograph their own cover fight-scenes".

Superman: Man of Steel 30 ships on December 14th, with the direct edition retailing for $2.50 and the newsstand edition at the regular price of $1.50.

The monster who temporarily ended Superman's life, Doomsday, is to return in the New Year for a rematch with the Man of Steel.

DC plan to launch a three-issue prestige format series, which will reveal Doomsday's origins, how he survived the battle in **Superman** 75 and allow series writer and artist Dan Jurgens to tie up any loose ends from the *Death of Superman* storyline.

The series is tentatively titled **Hunter/Prey** and is scheduled for a February 1994 release.



*Enhancing the current high profile of the Man of Steel beyond the death and rebirth storylines is the Warner Bros TV series **Lois & Clark: The New Adventures of Superman**. Starring Teri Hatcher and Dean Cain, the series is due to premiere in the UK through BSkyB in December and in a **Moonlighting** meets **Lou Grant** vein, it will focus strongly on the action-comedy-romance aspects of Lois and Clark, with Superman himself only appearing in about 20% of each episode.*

New readers: begin here

Comics International is a monthly industry newspaper devoted to the comics medium. As such, it provides details of forthcoming UK and US comics and related items, together with reviews and commentary on current titles.

Certain products mentioned are not available through regular news agent outlets, but only from the 'direct sale' comics specialist retailers and mail order companies. Details of specialist outlets are advertised throughout the magazine, and a listing of the major specialists in Britain is given in our Retail Index and Mail Order Index sections.

Shipping dates mentioned for North American titles are the dates copies leave their printers to be air-freighted to distributors for direct sale outlets approximately one week later. These dates and titles do not relate to on sale dates or titles for news agent copies.

The Marvel and DC titles on general national distribution are on sale in the UK approximately two to three months after the air-freighted copies can be bought through specialist shops and mail order companies dealing with 'advance imports'. Because of the additional shipping costs incurred, these advance copies will be sold at a higher price than the UK price printed on their covers.

American dollar prices are listed for US titles with most UK comic shops converting at the rate of 80p = $1.

Most reputable mail order dealers bear a CoBRA seal on their advertisements. For full details concerning advertisers displaying this Mail Order Protection seal, see page 102.

Image launches Hellshock, Kindred and Stormwatch spin-off titles

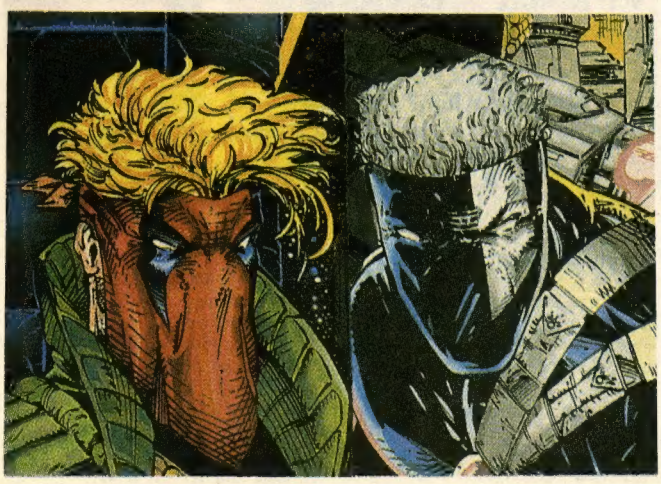
JAE LEE became a instant favourite with comic fans when his dynamic style replaced John Byrne's pencils on Marvel's **Namor**. Within a year, he was made an offer he couldn't before by Image, and became working from Jim Lee's Homage Studios has become new artist on **Deathblow** and **Wild C.A.T.S Trilogy**.

Despite Image's recent cancellations and statement that the company was to concentrate on its core creators' titles, Jae Lee is an obvious exception, with his **Hellshock** (pictured above) set to debut in the new year as a continuing title.

● Image's popular **Stormwatch** series has managed to feature consistently in distributors top 50 charts since its release earlier this year, despite having no top name creators. The title's Yearbook will be published in December featuring work by the team of Ron (**Silver Surfer**) Marz and Dwayne (**Wolverine**) Turner, followed in January by **Stormwatch Sourcebook** which features inside information on the team and never-seen-before artwork from the book's regular artists Brett Booth, Alex Garner and Jeffrey Scott. This one-shot will ship in January and retails for $2.50.

● **Kindred** is another new Image title from Homage Studios. Featuring popular WildC.A.T.S character Grifter teamed up with Blacklash (visuals below), the mini-series is written by Brandon Choi and Jim Lee with art from Brett Booth and Sal Regla.

The first issue of **Kindred** will ship in February, and maintains Image's low cover price policy with a $1.95 price.



The X-Men: two to marry; Fleer launch card series and Mutant Agenda debuts

THE long-awaited Fleer Ultra **X-Men Premier Edition** trading cards are set to introduce a higher than ever profile in 1994 for Marvel's most popular group of characters.

The first set of cards since Marvel bought Fleer, the X-Men series features 150 trading cards (see examples, above and below) with fully painted artwork from some of the industry's hottest painters and artists.

Contributors include Ray (**Open Space**) Lago, Tristan (**Marvels II**) Schane, Dan (**Legacy**) Lawlis, Joe Jusko and Glenn Fabry.

Further boosting the mutant team's profile, the much-anticipated marriage of original X-Men members Jean Grey and Scott (Cyclops) Summers is finally scheduled to take place.

In the January 4th shipping **Uncanny X-Men** 310, the scene is set as the two long-time lovers, whose relationship has been building since the first 1963 issue of the title, contemplate what their futures hold.

The story crosses over into **X-Men** 30 which features the actual wedding in a special extended issue by the regular creative team of Fabian Nicieza, Andy Kubert and Matthew Ryan. It comes complete with three bound-in trading cards, retails for $1.95 and ships on January 18th.

The wedding storyline continues in **X-Men: The Many Loves of Jean and Scott** a special 48 page magazine one-shot, giving the full background on the characters, including new and reprinted art and stories. Features include both the bachelor party and, as Marvel name it, the *batchelorette* party.

This commemorative magazine-sized title ships on January 25th and retails for $3.95.

Combining Marvel's twin media successes in a first time crossover between a newspaper comic strip and a comic book, the mutant heroes reappear in **Spider-Man: Mutant Agenda 0** a special 48 page keepsake album, featuring 39 black and white pages with dated spaces, so that Spider-Man fans can paste the newspaper sections of the story, which begin in American newspapers on December 6th.

The December 7th shipping $1.25 comic will also feature a new 5 page story by Stan Lee and John Romita Sr, retelling Spider-Man's origin.

Beyond issue zero, the three issue series then kicks off in earnest with the $1.75 January 4th shipping **Mutant Agenda** 1 by **Spectacular Spider-Man** writer Steven Grant and **Hawkeye** artist Scott Kolins.

The story revolves around The Hobgoblin and the Brand Corporation's attempts to eradicate all mutants from the face of the Earth. Naturally, this leads into Spider-Man teaming up with an X-Man, The Beast, as well as support from Bishop, Gambit, Iceman and Professor Xavier in an attempt to thwart the villains.

IN BRIEF

More Groening

FOLLOWING the successful launch of inaugural titles **Simpsons Comics** and **Itchy and Scratchy**, Matt Groening's Bongo Comics are releasing two further comics in January.

Radioactive Man, taken from the tv series, is based on Bart Simpson's favourite comic while **Bartman** focuses on Bart's fantasy life in which he becomes a super-hero.

Both titles are bi-monthly comics written and drawn by Groening, each retailing at $2.95.

Nostalgia cards

CORNERSTONE Communications of Tucson, Arizona, the company that produced **The Avengers** (Steed & Mrs Peel) trading cards, has acquired the rights to produce **Doctor Who** trading cards.

The company looking at an early 1994 release, has stated that this collection will be the first in a series.

Fantasy cards

FOLLOWING the success of fantasy art trading cards from such industry greats as Frank Frazetta, Boris Vallejo, Bernie Wrightson and Luis Royo, major trading card companies are gearing up for a second wave of fantasy art trading cards.

Comic Images is to release a new 90 card Olivia series entitled **Ladies, Leather and Lace** and new 90 card fantasy sets from Tim Hildebrandt called **Flights of Fantasy** (example below) and Greg Hildebrandt's **From Tolkien to Robin Hood**.

Richard Corben Collector Cards, see below, is a 90 card set depicting some of the finest work of the artist. The cards feature Corben's work on titles such as **Mutant World, Heavy Metal** and images from his own publishing company Fantagor Press.

Corben became famous for his work on the underground anthology **Slow Death** and his graphic novels **Bloodstar** and **Neverwhere**.

Friedlander, who had a huge success with the Frazetta and Vallejo cards earlier this year, is releasing the **Roger Dean Fantastic Art** card set in December, followed by **The Sanjulian Collection** (see below) by the renowned Spanish artist, best known as cover artist on **Creepy, Eerie** and **Vampirella**.

Erik Larsen intros Freak Force

FREAK Force is the latest creation of Image mainstay Erik (**Super Patriot**) Larsen. Spinning off directly from the writer/artist's **Savage Dragon** series, it follows the exploits of the bizarre team of heroes pictured above, who were originally assembled by the big green fin-headed Chicago policeman in Image's **Savage Dragon #4**.

A continuing series, it will be plotted by Larsen, with finished scripts by industry veteran Keith (**Lobo**) Giffen. Artwork is being produced by industry newcomer Mike Bridges.

Issue one will ship in December with a $1.95 retail price.

Malibu Ultraverse adds two

HOT on the heels of Barry Windsor-Smith and Chris Ulm's **Rune** comes Malibu's 14th Ultraverse title, **Wrath**, featuring an ultra-powered secret agent on the trail of terrorists. Created by **Prototype** artist David Ammerman, who supplies the plot and art on the new book, finished scripts are by **Mantra's** Mike Barr.

The first $1.95 priced issue ships in late January.

An anthology is also being scheduled with the working title of **Ultraverse Premiere**. Created to try out new strips, it launches in April with *Warstrike* by Dan Danko and Hoang Nguyen and the female vigilante **Masquerade** by Hank Kanalz and Jerome Moore.

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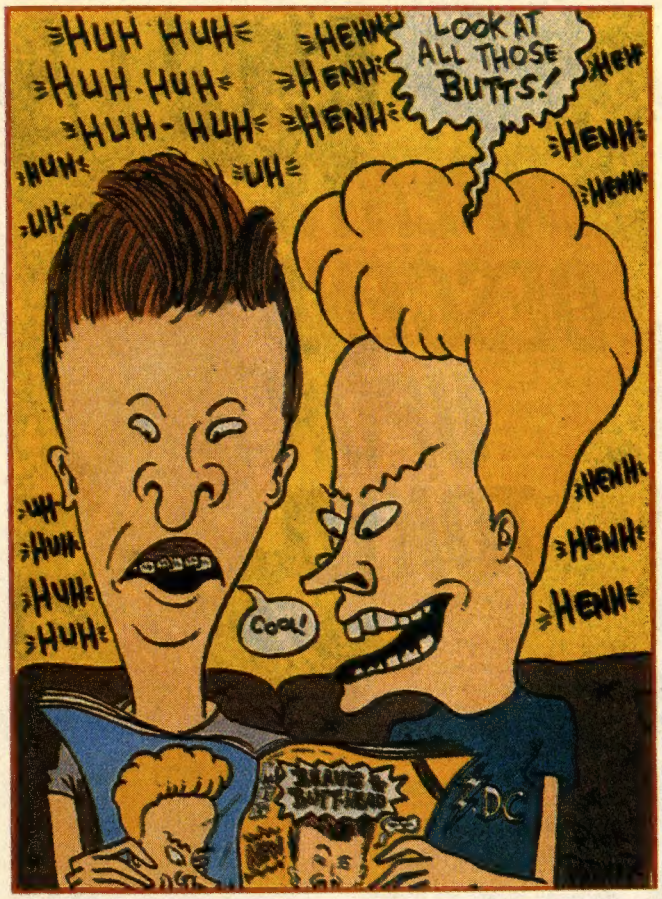

***Beavis & Butt-Head**, the controversial MTV characters, are to receive their own monthly comic from Marvel by Mike (**Punisher**) Lackey with Bullpen Bulletins artist Rick Parker. The two scatological misfits will poke fun at Marvel in one half of the comic, while becoming comic characters themselves in the other. Issue one ships January 18th retails for $1.95.*

Distributor takes off the pressure

DIAMOND Distributors, the largest specialist distributor of American comics, is taking the pressure off retailers.

With the traditional ordering system, shops budget for comics to be delivered in three months, placing non-returnable orders based on catalogue information (in **Diamond Previews** and Capital's **Advance Comics**). But increasingly books have not shipped on time, resulting in retailers often trimming exisiting titles to allow for major new launches, only to have them not arrive on time and the shop receiving an insubsantial delivery.

To encourage publishers to deliver on time, Diamond has instigated a 60-day cancellation policy. If publishers do not deliver the books within sixty days of promised date, the distributor will automatically cancel all the retail orders, forcing the publisher to re-solicit for a later date.

Having previously had a 90-day cut-off, Diamond executive vice president Chuck Parker explained, "Cancellations and product returns cost retailers, vendors and distributors money. We believe that this new policy will allow everyone to place and budget more effectively and, consequently, benefit the entire industry."

VP of purchasing Bill Schanes added, "The industry has changed dramatically in the last year and our conversations with customers indicated a need to tighten the existing cancellation window."

Diamond, like Capital, had previously implemented a 90-day cut-off.

Director of order processing Denise Harrell explained, "Under the present 90-day cancellation policy, there is a period of six months between the time an item appears in **Previews** and the time it is up for cancellation. And once a product does ship, sometimes between the third and sixth month, it becomes returnable to the Diamond Centre four weeks after that ship date."

Comics manager of Titan Distributors, Nick Parry-Jones commented, "While this won't necessarily apply to UK publishers' titles, certainly with late shipping books from the States UK accounts will be offered the same returns opportunities through Titan as US customers receive through Diamond."

It is understood that Capital City Distribution is investigating switching to similar terms to Diamond, its major US competitor and that the recently-launched Essex-based First Choice Wholesale will follow suit.

At a recent distributors meeting Marvel emphasised its determination to get its titles back on track, and is adamant about working towards all titles shipping on time by the new year.

Speaking for Image Comics, publisher Tony Lobito said that the company's gimmick for 1994 will be to get its titles out on time.

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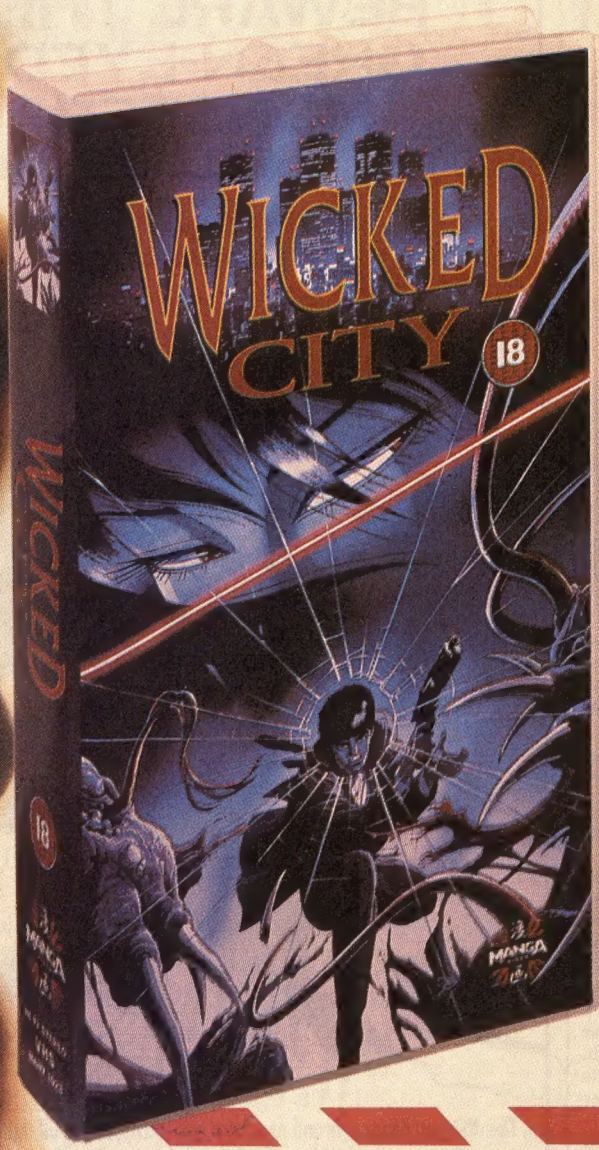

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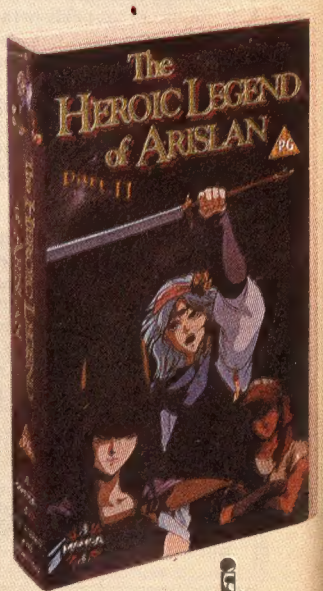

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IN BRIEF

Comics seaQuest

NEW imprint Nemesis Comics, headed up by Dan Chichester, Denys Cowan and Keith Pollard, have secured the comics rights to the hit Steven Spielberg television series **seaQuest**.

The monthly ongoing series will be written by Dan **(Daredevil)** Chichester, with art by industry veterans Keith **(Fantastic Four)** Pollard and Alfredo **(Conan)** Alcala.

The first issue is due to ship in November with a $2.25 cover price.

Another interesting Nemesis launch is the four-part series **Frank**, which adapts Mary Wolstencroft Shelley's famous story *Frankenstein* into a modern day setting.

Also written by Dan Chichester, the series features artwork from Denys **(Deathlok)** Cowan, Mike **(Batman)** Manley and JJ **(Foolkiller)** Birch. The direct sales version is for mature readers, while the newsstand edition has been edited for comics code approval.

The first issue ships in December with the direct edition priced $2.50 and the newsstand version $1.75.

Return of Death

Following the shock news from DC that the popular **Sandman** series is to finish late in 1994, DC has announced that although the ongoing series is to finish, many of the characters introduced will spin off into their own mini-series.

Neil Gaiman and Chris Bachalo are to re-unite for another three issue **Death** series, scheduled for autumn 1994.

Gaiman also writes a **Delirium** mini series, with art by Jill **(Black Orchid)** Thompson which is due for a summer release.

Other members of Sandman's family — The Endless — will feature in mini-series and one-shot specials over the next 18 months.

DC is also planning on releasing an anthology title called **The Dreaming** which will feature **Sandman**-related stories by a variety of writers and artists, not normally associated with the regular **Sandman** title.

Spawn-Valeria off

TODD McFarlane has announced that he is pulling out of the proposed **Spawn/Valeria the She-Bat** crossover, originally scheduled for Continuity's **Valeria** 3 and 4.

McFarlane blames lateness and the fact that he wants no **Spawn** related product released prior to his **Spawn/Batman** crossover.

Continuity will not publish these issues at all and continue **Valeria's** numbering at issue five.

McFarlane also announced that Frank Miller is to write the Image issue of the **Spawn/Batman** crossover with DC.

Nocenti heads back

ANN Nocenti, most recently seen as writer of DC's Vertigo title **Kid Eternity** is returning to Marvel where she first made her name as the innovative scriptwriter on **Daredevil**.

Among her projects are a solo title for Doctor Strange's long-time nemesis **Nightmare** and a new book for **Blade, Vampire Slayer.**

Shazam scheduled

DC Comics is releasing a 96 page hardcover graphic novel that brings Superman's biggest sales challenger from the 1940s back into comics.

The Power of Shazam retells the origin of the original Captain Marvel and presents a new version of his first-ever adventure.

With over fifty years since the story was first told, and twenty years since DC's first attempt to revive the character, this sets the scene for the new ongoing monthly series.

Written and painted by Jerry **(Superman)** Ordway, the special retails for $19.95 and ships on January 11th.

DC is also re-releasing a **Shazam Archives** Volume 1, reprinting Captain Marvel's earliest adventures from **Whiz Comics** 2-15. The volume also includes the first appearances of Captain Thunder, reprinted from the rare editions of **Flash Comics** and **Thrill Comics**. Comics which few modern fans will have ever seen.

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Cincinnati based new comics publishers Majestic Entertainment Inc. is launching four titles to start their own superhero universe.

Following the release of the company's **Comic Future Stars '93** and **Majestic Legacy 0** trading card sets, Majestic plans on introducing a range of graphic novels, further trading card sets and other comics-related merchandise to enhance their four title launch.

This month **Legacy** and **S.T.A.T** arrive in stores, while in January **Flashpoint** and **Heroes Like Us** card sets will ship, acting as prequels to the forthcoming series.

Creators on the comics include Fred Schiller, Dan **(Punisher)** Lawlis, Stan **(Swamp Thing)** Woch, Tom **(Punisher 2099)** Morgan, Tom and Mary **(Legion of Super-heroes)** Bierbaum, Rick **(Strangers)** Hoberg, Phil **(Rust)** Hester, Steve Skroce and renowned colourist Paul Mounts.

Above is a visual of one of their more interestingly-named villains: Punch-Hurt-Kill-Kill.

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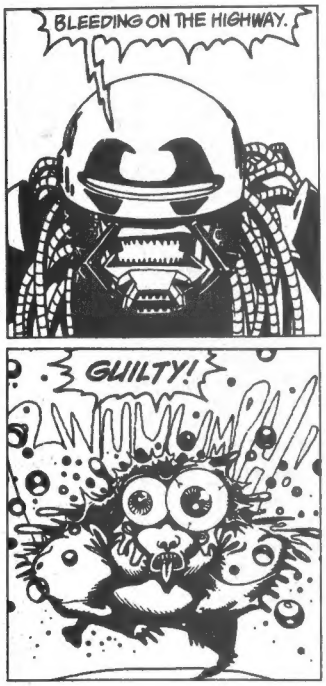
IN BRIEF

Lobo oneshot



LOBOCOP is a parody of the *RoboCop* movies, starring the popular DC anti-hero Lobo.

Written by regular writer Alan **(Batman)** Grant and drawn by Martin **(White Trash)** Edmond, this one shot tells of the unexpected death of the last Czarnian and how twisted corporate scientists steal his body and turn him into the ultimate law enforcement officer, **Lobocop**.

Priced $1.95, **Lobocop** ships on December 21st.

Christmas bat-books

LINKING in with the Christmas release of Warner Bros. **Batman: Mask of the Phantasm — The Animated Movie**, DC is releasing an adaptation of the same name by **Batman Adventures** regular team Kelley Puckett, Mike Parobeck and Rick Burchett.

Available in two versions, a $2.95 regular and $4.95 prestige edition, the adaptation ships December 7th.

DC is also releasing a companion title, **The Batman Adventures: Mad Love**, a special one-shot written by **Batman: The Animated Series** producer/director Paul Dini and illustrated by Batman animator/producer Bruce Timm.

This one-shot examines the secret origin of Harley Quinn and how she was turned from the Joker's psychiatrist into his deadly and deranged sidekick.

This 64 page special is priced $3.95 and ships December 14th.

Capital donation

CAPITAL City Distribution has donated 1500 comic books to the Police Athlete League, a police charity in Philadelphia, to distribute autographed copies of Spider-Man anniversary issues to its 17 youth centres, to aid in its ongoing literacy program.

Capital's vice president of sales and marketing Connie Woolpert Koury said "The comic book industry, as a whole, has established reading and literacy programs throughout the nation and we're happy to be able to do this for Philadelphia."

Cancellations

Marvel has announced the following cancellations: **Deathlok** with issue 34, **Nightstalkers** issue 18 and **Nomad** issue 25.

Dark Horse is cancelling their European anthology title **Cheval Noir** with issue 50.

DC Comics has cancelled **Green Lantern Quarterly** as of issue 8 and **Scarlett** with the January shipping issue 14.

Force Works

BRITAIN's **Punisher** writers Dan Abnett and Andy Lanning are now handling **Force Works**, a new monthly series from Marvel.

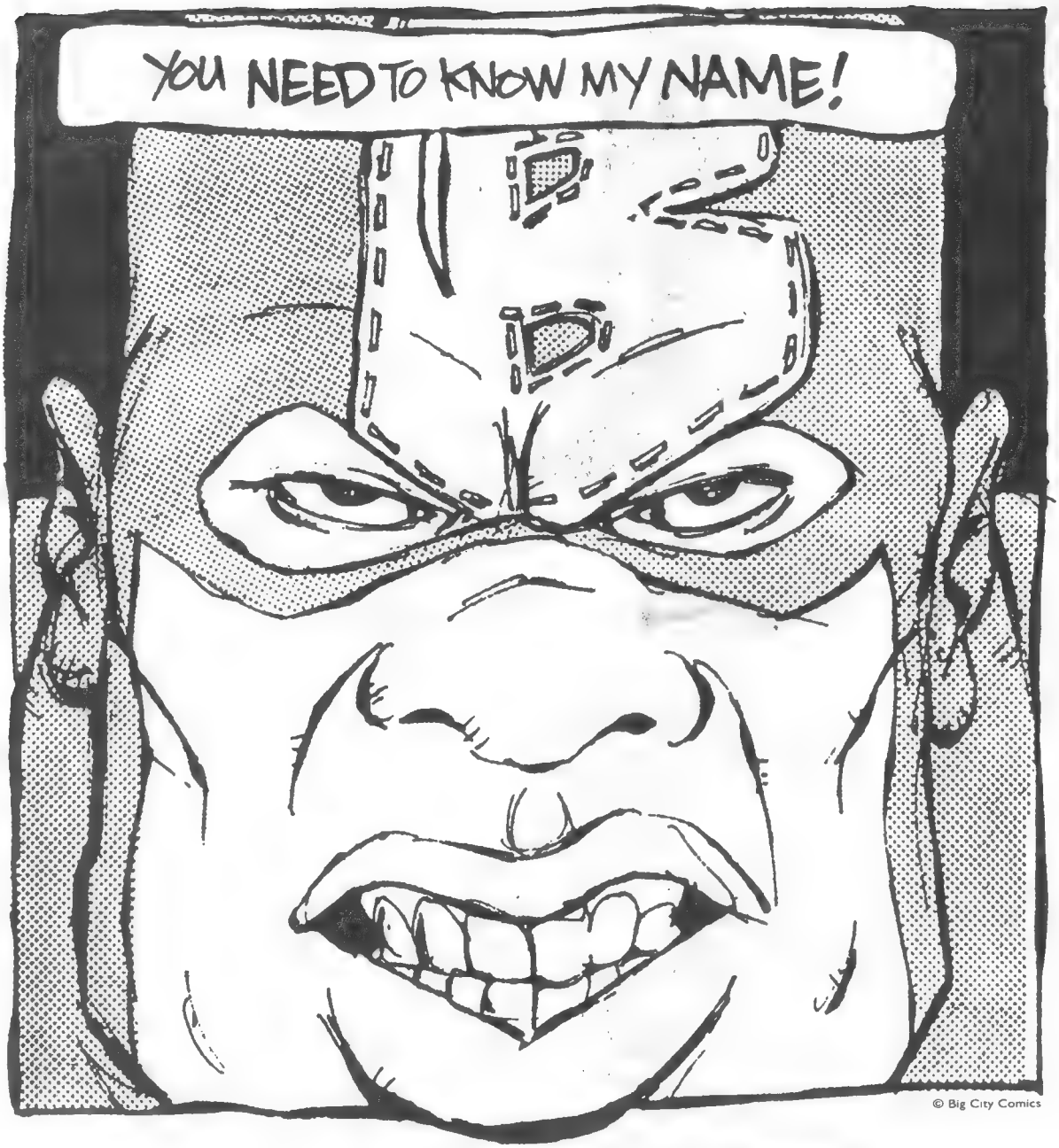
Featuring art from newcomer Tom Tenney, the new series follows directly from the final issue of **Avengers West Coast**, with the new team no longer operating under Avengers jurisdiction.

The first issue, with a special pop-up cover and priced $3.95, ships January 4th.

Marvel share split

ON November 1st, Marvel's publicly-owned shares were split for the third time, meaning all shareholders automatically had their existing quantity doubled once more. The reason for this was that the current value, just below $50 per share, made a 100-block share purchase prohibitively high at $5000.

By splitting the stock, the entry point is lowered to a more affordable $25 per share and $2500 per 100-block. Being the third split, this means that anybody who bought 100 shares when initially offered at less than $20 per share would have had them doubled to 200 shares, then doubled again to 400 and would now have 800 shares still worth almost $25 each.



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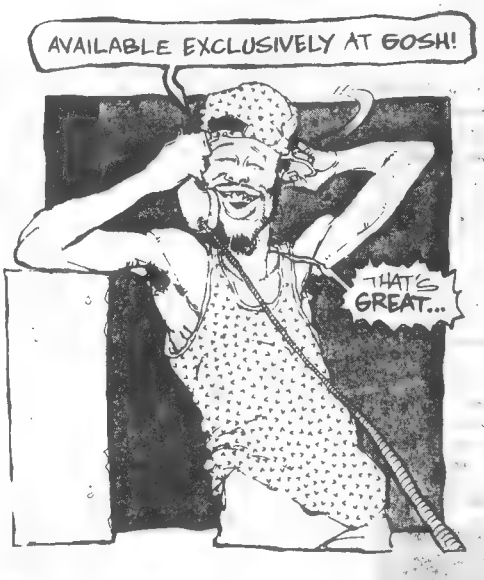

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Dark Horse launches new series for Aliens, RoboCop and X

Dark Horse is to release a range of new titles for the new year.

● A new RoboCop mini-series ships January 11th, **RoboCop: Roulette**. The four issue title is written by **Aliens'** John Arcudi, with art from Mitch **(Dinosaurs For Hire)** Byrd and Brian **(Rom)** Garney.

The series returns the cyborg cop to Detroit, where he must face a rogue ED-209 and the taxman!

● Horror author Chet Williamson has been recruited to write the latest instalment in the **Aliens** comic series, **Aliens: Music of the Spears**. The story tells of a failed composer who wishes to hatch an alien egg so that he can nurture the creature and capture its sounds to be used in his ultimate concert.

With art from the team of Tim Hamilton and Timothy Bradstreet, the first $2.50 issue of four ships on January 18th.

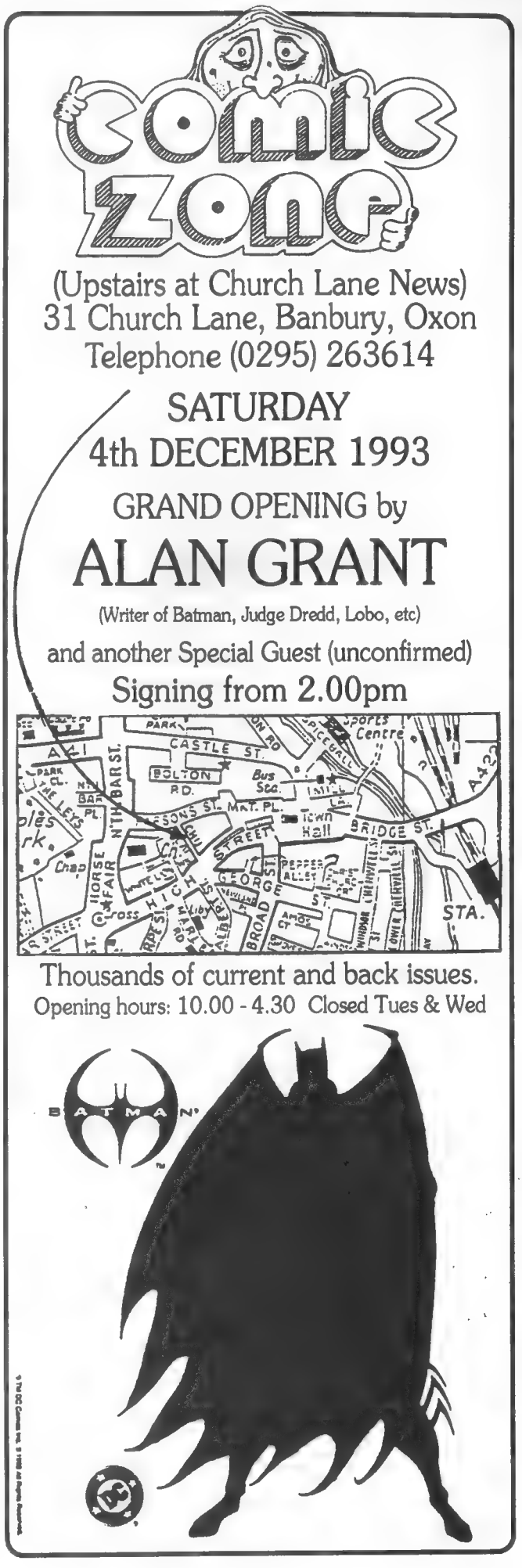
● Completing Dark Horse's January launches is **X**, another of the characters spotlighted in the company's 16 part launch series *Comics' Greatest World*.

X is an ongoing $2.00 series based on the streets of Arcadia, the city

where the initial *Comics' Greatest World* story took place, and follows the adventures of the masked crimefighter, who is despised by both sides of the law.

The series will be written by Steven with art from Doug Mahnke and Jimmy Palmiotti and begins shipping on February 1st.

Fighting American was a short-lived but fondly remembered 1954-1955 patriotic hero by Jack Kirby and Joe Simon. The mirror of their earlier hero Captain America, he was a humorous anti-communist superhero who fought bizarre villains. Following the hardback reprint of his seven Prize Comics issues (which had been part reprinted by Harvey in a 1966 giant), he is returning as a DC superhero. In a new six-issue limited series, Fighting American is brought back in the form of Johnny Flagg's brother, Nelson, after Johnny's untimely death at the hands of the evil villain Poison. Nelson resurrects the hero to a world where the red menace is no longer a threat. Once more aimed at the satirical end of the comics market, **Fighting American** deals with a whole host of 1990s social and political threats. Written by regular **Justice League Quarterly** writers Pat McGreal and Dave Rawson, with art by Greg **(Flash)** LaRoque and Richard **(Black Condor)** Space, the first issue ships on December 28th, priced $1.50.



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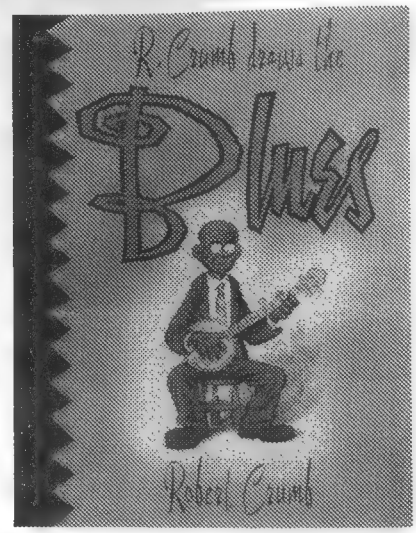

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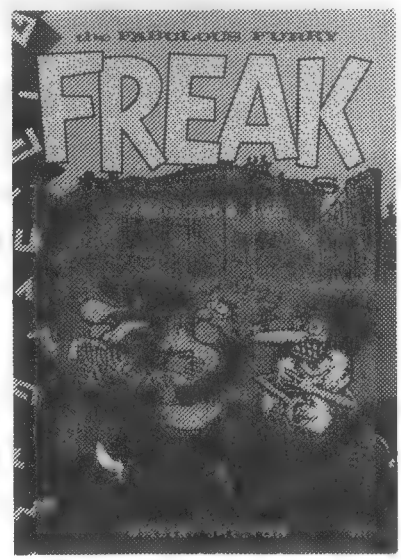

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NEWS
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Bumper Buster for Christmas

THIS Christmas sees a return to a long-forgotten tradition for British humour comics as the children's weekly **Buster** becomes a "Christmas and New Year Double Number" for one issue, on sale for two weeks over the festive period.

Instead of the usual 32 page, 60p format, the comic will be priced 85p and contain 48 pages featuring double helpings of regular strips.

The bumper issue format dates back to the days of such tabloid comics as **Illustrated Chips** and **Comic Cuts** when they had seasonal "second helpings" editions in the 1930s. However, the decision to produce a bumper **Buster** isn't a nostalgic move by Fleetway, but rather a sound business idea.

The Christmas period usually means that due to holidays, comics are only on the shelf for perhaps three or four days instead of the expected six or seven, with sales inevitably suffering. By releasing a double issue to cover an entire fortnight, the shelf life of the comic will be longer than a week, rather than shorter. The problem of printers handling a new year issue over the Christmas holiday period is also tidily resolved.

Buster will revert to the weekly 60p format for the January 8th dated issue, which will begin the new year with a redesigned front cover. Instead of the current design which features one large illustration alongside a sidebar mentioning contents, competitions, etc., the new look harkens back to the **Buster** from the Seventies period, when **Comics International** editor Dez Skinn worked on the title. With a topline running above the logo, a four panel strip begins the story on the cover and continues inside.

But the biggest change is that the disowned *Son of Andy Capp*, Buster himself, won't always be the cover star. In a departure from tradition, he will occasionally be replaced by other popular characters including Chalky, drawn by Bob Hill and Tom Thug written and drawn by Lew Stringer.

As 1994 marks Chalky's 20th year in **Buster** (having come over from **Corl!** comic), and Tom Thug has shot up the popularity ratings over the past five years, this variation could prove a wise move.

The Buster strip itself continues to be drawn by Jimmy Hansen, who has worked on the comic since 1970. Commemorating his best work over the years, some of Jimmy's **Buster** covers of the past will be reprinted for the pull-out **Buster Calender 1994** which runs for six weeks starting from 8th January issue. The January 22nd and 29th issues both feature cover mounted free gifts. These will be the first of many, as the catchphrase for **Buster** next year will be "Free Gifts Galore in 1994!".

Chaos City to produce AIDS awareness charity comic

EARLIER this year, Richard Emms thought up a unique way to promote his new shop in St Albans, *Chaos City Comics*, and make a worthwhile donation to charity.

With comics celeb Dave Gibbons living near by and at the time working on the first issue of Image's **1963**, Richard approached him, hoping for a promotional signing. Following several discussions and the approval of Image, an innovative publishing package was created.

With signed and numbered certificates, a set of expensive limited edition **1963** first issues was created. Each having its own special card cover, 500 Gold Editions were produced (sold at £7.95), 150 Platignum Editions (at a staggering £29.95) and, from the test run, 20 incredibly rare Bronze Editions.

Arriving at the peak of speculator buying, coupled with the high profile of Image Comics and public interest in the Alan Moore written series being his return to super-heroes, the set was an instant success, selling out in a few weeks, and doubling or in some cases tripling in value within a month.

While the craze for divergent versions of existing titles has dwindled in the wake of the glut of different *new* titles being published over summer, Cancer Research benefitted by £2,500 from Richard's endeavours, Chaos City Comics increased its profile, and dealers are still selling-on the end product.

Now Richard is embarking on an even more ambitious project, an all-new comic, with the profits being donated to AIDS Awareness through the Terrence Higgins Trust, named after the first UK victim of the HIV virus.

With Marvel UK coordinating the comic and Dave Gibbons providing character designs, it will feature the work of artists including Liam Sharp, Bryan Hitch, Andrew Currie, Charlie Adlard, John Ridgway, Edmund Perriman and Andy Lanning. Chaos City staffer Steve Lowis is providing the script and Simon Bisley the colour cover art.

Richard hopes that the 10,000 print run £4.95 comic (and 1,000 card-covered £24.95 premium copies) will be ready for shipping on December 10.

Chaos City will be handling their own distribution, although Diamond Distributors have helped with America through a promotional feature in a recent Diamond Discussions.

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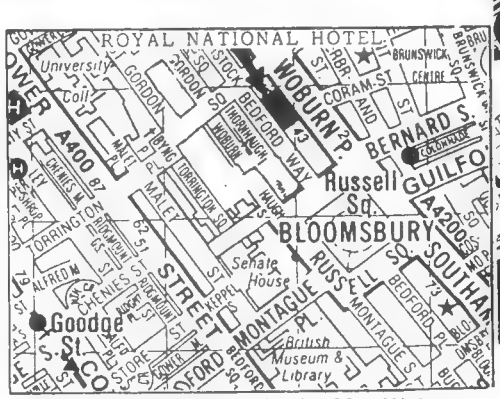

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IN BRIEF

Wild Adaptation

Wild Palms is being published by Arrow Books this month as a graphic novel. This will be a compilation of the American comic strip on which the five-part tv series was based.

The series, which starts on BBC2 on November 15th, is produced by Oliver (*Wall Street*) Stone and stars Jim Belushi and Angie Dickinson.

The original comic strip was written by Bruce Wagner with art by Julian Allen and the Arrow compilation, which promises to explain some of the more oblique parts of the TV series, will retail for £7.99.

Slaine compilation

The Collected Slaine is a new Titan Books album retelling the early stories of the **2000AD** barbarian king. The trade paperback is in shops now and retails for £8.99.

The Last Laugh

THE reprint title **Funny Monthly**, published by Fleetway, is to merge into the reprint **Best of Buster Monthly** with the February issue.

Originally titled **Funny Fortnightly**, the title reprinted some of the older humour strips in the IPC vaults such as early 1970s material by Graham Allen and Leo Baxendale. Whereas its companion title, **Big Comic** reprints more recent material and sells very well, it was thought that **Funny**'s dated content restricted its sales. If nothing else, the comic holds the distinction of having a yearbook published with the most contradictory title in British comics: **The Funny Fortnightly Annual**.

The Monoverse

AMBITIOUS Southampton based publisher Chris Morgan is to expand his line of black and white CM Comics comics under the wittily-titled banner of *The Monoverse*.

With four titles shipping in December and another eight planned in the new year, Morgan is hoping that the line of comics, which started with **Brit Force**, will appeal to fans of traditional superheroes but with a distinctly British feel.

Having placed major advertisements in America, his December shipping titles are **Brit Force 4**; **Alleycat 2**; **Wildcard 1** and **Deathsheart 1**. All will carry redeemable coupons for **Monoverse 0**. The Monoverse will then continue in 1994 with the release of **Lionheart 1** and **Stray Dogs 1**.

Morgan, hoping to release up to 12 titles by the end of 1994 is still looking for potential writers and artists for his expanding imprint.

All CM Comics titles retail for £1.60 each and are available through specialist comic shops.

Ripper Cards

JACK the Ripper stalks again, only this time in a new set of trading cards from Fantaco.

The Autumn of Fear, a 36 card series, has been researched extensively by **Comics International** correspondent Deborah Hyde and have been illustrated by *Highlander* and *Hellraiser* story board artist Floyd Jones-Hughes.

The series is printed in sepia, duo-tone, giving the set an authentic late 19th century feel.

The series retails for £8.95 and is currently available.

New Manifestations

The Book of Manifestations is a new anthology title from Reading based publishers, Searchville Ltd.

Issue one features strips in the SF, fantasy, horror, action and adventure genre and retails for £1.50.

X-Mas Late Shipping

COMAG has announced changes to Christmas schedules.

Titles which are being put back up to two weeks are **Funny Monthly** (about to switch to firm sale), **Slaine Poster Magazine** and **Starburst**.

The titles that are being brought forward so as not to bump into Christmas are **Judge Dredd The Megazine, Sonic the Comic** and **Poster Magazine 2, Stingray, Thunderbirds** and **Superman Adventures**. Expect them in your shops at least three days early.

Viz: party animals

DESPITE building their reputation on being outrageous, the **Viz** team may have created a headache for publisher John Brown with their protocol over the Christmas party held recently.

Bouncers at the door were under strict instruction to limit the attendance. But unfortunately, they were hardly in a position to know whose name-dropping had any validity. When the chief buyer from Virgin appeared at the door, she was promtly turned away.

A curt note to the **Viz** team about how to maintain their sales through the Branson empire quickly followed, and it is understood that Interflora benefitted from the response.

Overkill overhaul

Marvel UK in revamping its fortnightly newsstand title **Overkill** into a larger monthly title.

With US characters now making far fewer guest apparances, the UK universe is being revised to take its roots more from myths and legends.

Retailers buying through Diamond-Titan should note that issue 44-46 are not 60p as solicited, but 99p as the title changes with issue 43 to the new format.

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*PROVING once again that Britain's loss is America's gain, Cardiff-based artist David Roach is to draw a two part story in Dark Horse's **Star Wars: Tales of the Jedi** 4 and 5. Following from the 3-part Tom Veitch and Janine **(Elfquest)** Johnson story, his first episode (visuals above) will ship in January in the full-colour $2.50 title.*

Warren Ellis breaks through

REMINDING everybody that tenacity can be a major part of a writer's equipment, Warren **(Lazarus Churchyard)** Ellis has finally broken into the American market with no less than three new series being developed.

● For Epic, he is producing a 3-issue mini-series, **The Silencers**, featuring probably the best artwork drawn to date by Glasgow's Gary Erskine (see right, more next issue). Remarking on the sudden retrenchment most publishers are going through, Warren quips that this is "one of the three new books that Epic hasn't suddenly killed off."

With the first issue completed, an early 1994 release is anticipated.

● Warren's **Silencers** script, for Epic **Akira** editor Marie Javins, has led to him following her into the mainstream Marvel universe. With Marie now editing titles outside of Epic, Warren has landed a 3-issue script writing assignment on **Hellstorm** from the January-shipping issue 12, for artist Leonardo Manco.

● In addition, Warren's **The Inspector** (with artist Mark Buckingham) has been picked up by Vertigo editor Stuart Moore.

As Warren sums it up, "You wait three years for a job, then they all turn up at once."

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A Talent for Comics

MEDIAFILE

Associate editor Sarah Bolesworth looks at recent media coverage of comics and related product

COMICS have been to the forefront in the media during the last month, with feature director Oliver Stone's first venture into television drama being serialised on BBC 2, beginning on 15th November.

Wild Palms is derived from Bruce Wagner's strip serialised in the independently published US magazine, **Details**. Based in a Gibsonesque future LA, the story revolves around a TV executive's obsession for the commercial potential of new technology, his implication in a series of murders and ultimately, the deterioration of his personality.

Post-Peaks: the new faith

American TV network ABC commissioned Oliver (*Wall Street, JFK*) Stone to produce *Wild Palms* in the wake of the hubris created by the unexpectedly high ratings for David Lynch's *Twin Peaks*.

Stone attributes the success of his series to its originator, Bruce Wagner. Interviewed in **Radio Times** (13-19.11.1993), Stone commented, "The fact is, we made a very difficult, cutting-edge piece of sci-fi obscuranta. We got away with it. We were successful with young urban audiences in all of the major US cities".

"It was basically Bruce's vision," he added.

Wagner's role in the series is that of writer and executive producer. The "vision" mentioned by Stone — largely influenced by writer William Gibson, the godfather of cyberpunk — has been absorbed into mainstream culture through *Terminator II, Bladerunner, Total Recall* and so on.

The global potential for such films has long been established, with science-fiction based films consistently outselling any other genre over the last 15 years.

David Lynch's *Twin Peaks* established that there was a place for ambiguous psychodrama in network TV. Financiers and advertisers are, as a result, happy to invest in science fiction drama.

As far as television is concerned, series like *Wild Palms* deliver exactly the kind of audiences advertisers want to reach — predominantly young, middle-income, single viewers who buy hi-technology products and services such as pc games and interactive software.

Cast in Stone conspiracy

Oliver Stone, while acknowledging Wagner's vision had his own, conclusive spin on Wagner's dystopian world. "There is a conspiracy," he warned, "to undermine the individualistic thinking of people, to give us mass conformity: this is what television does and is doing. Whoever controls the media controls reality".

Stone continued, "I think it's a view of the future that's close to reality right now than you may suspect. But more importantly we deal with the concept of reality itself...".

If Bruce Wagner has anything to do with it, reality will read like classic comics plotlines. Outside of the obvious literary influences like William Gibson, Wagner's structures seem familiar territory. TV exec Kreutzer is also the leader of an influential cult, The Fathers, whose secret army "kidnaps children to raise them in the philosophy of Synthiotics or New Realism". Kreutzer's cult is opposed by The Friends, "the shock troops of reality", and whose sole aim is to bring about the demise of The Fathers — and Kreutzer with it.

Wild Palms is a five-part series, with the first two parts running on consecutive nights and then settling into a weekly schedule. The central role is taken by James (Jim) Balushi, with support from Robert Loggia, Angie Dickinson and David Warner.

Time magazine (owned by DC comics' parent, Time Warner) has at long last woken up to the importance of comics in contemporary culture.

Time: right-thinking guide

Now regarded as one of the few refuges for right-thinking Americans, **Time** has at last apparently woken up to the importance of comics in contemporary culture.

Time's November issue is dominated by the medium, with a cover and five pages dedicated to features examining this very American phenomenon.

Comics cognoscenti were no doubt disappointed to find that the swathes of text offered no insight and little information; the feature was obviously intended for those head-in-bag readers oblivious of 20th century cultural history. But in fact, the title of the extravaganza told all: *Beyond Mickey Mouse*. Indeed.

October saw the release of another US comics opus — thankfully one which restored faith in the American appreciation of the medium.

Author Frederic Tuten's **Tintin in the New World** was reviewed at considerable length in **The Guardian** (13.10.1993). This affectionate tribute to Tuten's friend, Tintin creator Herge had, according to **The Guardian**, been on the best-seller list for six weeks in the States before its release in the UK.

The book maps previously unchartered territory for Tintin. "By the end of the story," commented **Guardian** writer Nicholas Fraser, "Tintin has experienced disillusionment, killed a man, eaten magic mushrooms, and, in some ultimate transmutation, turned eco-seer and god to the Amerindian tribes, pitching himself into the Amazon river to become one with the fishes and the universe itself".

Packaged with a Roy (famous for making comics famous) Lichenstein cover, the book looks set to do just as well in the UK bookstores: Tuten's reconstruction of Tintin should offer welcome refreshment after the surfeit of Herge retro-bore product we've suffered over recent years.

Comics careerists update

This month saw the publication of Hunt Emerson's outrageous new book, **Casanova's Last Stand** (Knockabout Publishing, £4.99).

The launch party for the book, held in the "rococo splendour" of a West London hotel was attended by 200 of the allegedly great and good. There was, however, little proof of any such greatness or goodness by the end of the night.

Knockabout's Tony and Carol Bennett are known in the business for giving exceptionally good party, and the launch gave no lie to that. There, in a womb of Victorian respectability with a string quartet to smooth over our grosser outbursts, we were treated to a gentle reminder of our responsibilities as ambassadors of the comics industry.

Thankfully the later lapses into drunken incoherence were not witnessed by the members of the bona fide press corps — they had, by the pricking of their social antennae, discerned that the private party was due to start — and had discretely withdrawn.

London-based comics fans who also happen to watch music TV may well have been surprised to see the familiar face of former **Blast!** editor, Stuart Green on ITV's *Raw Soup* last month (14.10.1993).

Not wearing a suit (that went along with the now defunct Tundra UK image), Stuart, who was there to promote the revitalised **Roy of the Rovers**, managed only monosyllabic answers to peach questions like, "So you really like football more than anything else, then?". Considering the circumstances, we think the boy done good...

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Comics International invites you to submit your comics-related queries, both for your own enlightenment, and that of our general readership.

Last month (Q & A, **Comics International 36**), *the question was raised as to what was the first ever graphic novel. Sergio Perciballi of Grove Road, Peterborough, has written to us, quoting several reference sources on the subject:*

Scott McCloud in his book **Understanding Comics** says the Bayeux tapestry made in 1080, which represented events from 1066, is a comic strip. Therefore, because of its size, is it the first graphic novel? He also refers to a pre-Columbian picture manuscript — a 36 feet long painted screenfold, found by famed discoverer Cortes in 1519. There are no panel borders (open panels?). McCloud, however, prefers not to call either graphic novels.

E M Gombrich in **Art and Illusion** refers to another precendent, Rodolphe Topfter, who made "humourous picture novels" from 1845.

In **Over 50 Years of American Comic Books** author Ron Goulart says the graphic novel originated in Europe. He mentions one of the pioneers cartoonist Herge and his Tin Tin books in the 1930s.

In Les Daniels book, **Marvel - Five Fabulous Decades of the World's Greatest Comics**, the first Marvel superhero graphic novel is mentioned as being the 1978 **Silver Surfer** book by Jack Kirby and Stan Lee. But then later in the book Daniels goes on to add (rather confusingly) that the first Marvel graphic novel was **The Death of Captain Marvel** by Jim Starlin in 1982.

To determine what deserves the acolade of being the very first graphic novel, we first must define what the term "graphic novel" means and what books fall into such a category. Is a graphic novel determined by page count? Do we risk introducing to comics the term novella, as in something too short to be considered a novel? Does it have to be original material or is a reprint of a monthly comic valid if created in chapters to fit a compilation format?

Many of the French, Spanish and Italian albums (a far less pretentious title) were first serialised. So were they serialisations of a forthcoming (graphic) novel, or is the end product merely a trade paperback compilation? And why don't *we ever hear of trade hardbacks? Your opinions are welcomed.*

Mark Pover, Fallowfield, Manchester.

RECENTLY, I purchased a copy of **Aliens vs Predator: Deadliest of the Species** (part 1 of 12). On page 21 onwards, artist Jackson Guice, suddenly takes it on himself to do a rather splendid imitation of Gene Colan. This style, however, clashes with his linear style on pages 1-20. Why did he do this?

Perhaps Guice is easily led. His first 20 pages bear more than a passing resemblance to Paul Gulacy's work. But we noticed the obvious "homage" to Colan too. With Dark Horse receiving **Comics International** *perhaps they will provide an answer.*

Paul Eke, 53 Mollison Road, Hull, East Yorkshire

I am writing to you in regard to allegations made in the letters page of **Miracleman** 24 that Dez Skinn was responsible for the creators involved in **Warrior** not being paid for the Eclipse reprints.

Further, it stated that Mr Skinn passed himself off as the agent of Mick Austin and sold some of Mr Austin's cover paintings to Eclipse, without his knowledge or consent. Mick Austin was, apparently, never paid for this.

I would like to hear Mr Skinn's side of the story and, if he is innocent, give him the chance to clear his name.

In brief, as legal action is being considered: Mick Austin told us that Dez Skinn was his agent back then with Eclipse, and no money was owed, the two remain close friends to this day. According to the Marvelman artists and the question asked which Eclipse chose to ignore in print, the only money owed to anybody, including Dez, is on US and foreign trade paperback editions which Eclipse appear unwilling to release. And they could have been a contender...

T. Montanarini, 49 Harborough Road, Sidcup

IN MY collection I have a copy of **Silver Sable** issue 1. But the copy I have has the same story repeated twice between its covers.

Is this a one-off, or have there been many, containing this printing error? Could you please advise me.

There are always printing and finishing mistakes with large press run periodicals, but if you're asking about collector values, that is debatable.

Stamps provide a good analogy: an actual misprint with wrong colours on part of the print run makes it a scarce and valuable item. Scarce because such errors are spotted and corrected. But a finishing error such as a smaller trim can be easily duplicated and has no real value.

Being a finishing error, yours can be duplicated by anybody with two copies of the same comic, simply by removing the staples, putting the two interiors (or, often, covers) together and replacing the staples. Another common finishing error is bad trimming, where the entire comic is either cut out of square or part of the back cover has wrapped round to the front. While scarce, collectors would pay less for a badly finished copy, considering it a reject, or a second.

But, in this age of multiple editions, a comicbook printing error can be argued to make it a completely different edition, albeit by accident. Then it can become a genuine rarity, as with the "Blue Lizard" **Spider-Man** *1 or the "Blue Maxx"* **Maxx** *1, which have sold for more than standard editions.*

But this increased value is hardly likely to apply unless it happens with an already popular comic.

Silver Sable *1, one of Marvel's less succcessful recent launches, isn't worth a lot more than when it first came out, so we wouldn't expect the value of yours to be any higher. But then, a comic is only worth what somebody is willing to pay, and there are collectors of stranger things...*

A J R Cotton, Willow Green, Ashtead, Surrey.

I have a query concerning **Wizard**. In their price guide they list **Akira** 34-37 and **Lone Wolf and Cub** 46 & 47. Is **Wizard** jumping the gun or have these issues actually been published?

In the case of **Akira**, *Marvel has had immense scheduling problems, due largely to them having caught up with Otomo's current work in Japan. The issues were resolicited by Marvel last year, but have still to be released — keep watching the advance listings for further release information.*

Lone Wolf and Cub *was published by First Comics, who dropped out of the highly competitive (pre-enhancement) comics market except for their more expensive line of* ***Classics Illustrated*** *and* ***Lone Wolf and Cub****. The experiment failed and the company no longer exists.* ***Lone Wolf and Cub*** *46 and 47 were never published.*

Price guides traditionally predict the future (for a longer shelf life, presumably) up to five issues in advance and value yet-to-be-published issues the same as the most recent releases. Occasionally guides fail to update their listings and errors such as this can slip through.

David McLintock, Glasgow, Scotland

I have asked everywhere for guidance/help on how to submit coupons/money for **Ultraverse** 0, yet no one can give advice. Just how do you send $5.00 in US funds without paying £10 for the privilege. Is there an easy way?

Yes, we've been discussing this very matter with Malibu and hope to have an announcement to make all UK fans lives easier in the near future.

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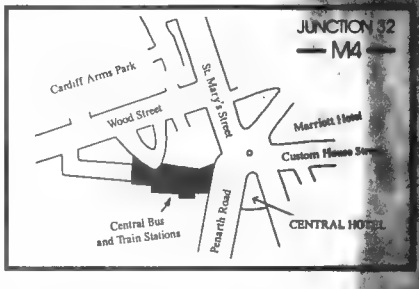

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Minimum order is £5.00 plus postage. Postage (inland UK) is £3.00 per order (Eire,CI,Overseas - enquire). Postal insurance add 65p. Prices in this list expire **December 15, 1993.** Payment by cheque or postal order payable to **Mega-City.** Visa or Mastercard accepted (quote full number, expiry date and cardholders name - order must be signed by cardholder). All comics are brand new condition, and are first printings unless noted. Please state alternative choices if possible, and allow up to 28 days for delivery (average delivery time 7 days). Full 32-page catalogue plus standing order forms sent free with order. Members of **COBRA** mail-order protection.

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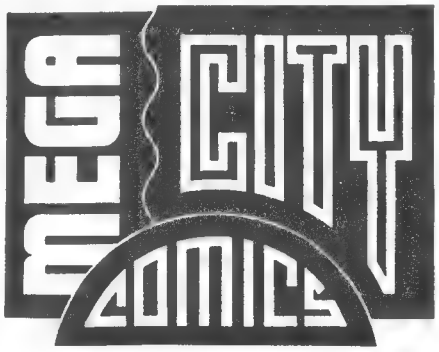

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19 FN/VFN £25
22 FN/VFN £12
24 FN £9.50
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35 FN/VFN £9.50
36 FN/VFN £9.50

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2 VG £75
7 VG £26
7 FN £28
8 G £9
8 FN/VFN £28
9 G/VG £9
9 FN/VFN £27
10 FN £24
10 VG £16
12 VFN £29
13 FN £21
13 VG £9
14 VG/FN £12
14 VG £10
15 FN £16
16 FN/VFN £30
17 FN £27
18 FN/VFN £15
19 VG £7
20 FN £13
21 FN £8.50
22 FN/VFN £10
23 FN/VFN £10
24 FN £8.50
26 VFN £13.50
27 FN £12
28 VF/NM £14
29 VG/FN £4.95
32 FN £8.50
33 VFN £10
35 VF/NM £12
36 VFN £10
37 FN £7.50
38 FN £6
40 FN £7.50
41 FN £5.50
42 VF/NM £9.50
43 VF/NM £9.50
44 VFN £8.50
45 FN/VFN £7
46 VFN £8.50
47 VFN £8.50
48 FN/VFN £7.50
49 FN/VFN £7.50
50 FN £7.50
51 FN £7.50

DR.STRANGE VOL.1

169 FN/VFN £36
170 FN/VF £11
171 FN/VF £11
172 FN/VF £11
173 FN/VF £11
174 FN/VF £11
175 FN/VF £11
176 FN/VF £11
177 FN/VF £11
178 FN/VF £11
181 FN/VF £11

FANTASTIC FOUR

1 VG+ £795
8 VG+ £110
19 G £24
20 VG £38
21 G £15
22 VG £18
25 VG £60
26 G/VG £48
28 G/VG £20
30 VG+ £14
31 VG+ £11
37 VFN £32
38 VG £11
38 FN £15
39 FN £19
40 FN/VFN £19
41 VG £8
41 FN/VFN £15
42 VG £6
42 FN £13
43 FN £13
43 FN/VFN £14
44 FN £11
45 VG £6.50
46 VG £9
47 VG/FN £7.50
47 VFN £23
51 VG/FN £9
51 FN £10
51 VFN £19.50
52 VG/FN £15
52 VFN £30
53 VG/FN £11
53 VF/FN £12
54 G £4.95
56 VFN £23
57 FN/VFN £18
58 FN/VFN £17
59 VG £9
60 VF/NM £23
61 VFN £11
62 VFN £11
62 VF/NM £16
63 VF/NM £16
64 FN/VFN £10
64 VFN £14
65 FN £9
65 VFN £11
66 VG/FN £23
66 FN/VFN £30
67 VG/FN £7.50
67 VFN £11
68 VG/FN £8
69 FN/VFN £9.50
70 FN £7.50
71 FN/VFN £8.50
72 FN £6.50
73 VFN £11
74 FN £7
75 FN (loose centre) £6
78 FN £6.50
78 VFN £7.50
78 VF/NM £8.50
79 FN £7.50
81 FN/VFN £6.50
82 FN/VFN £6.50
83 FN/VFN £6.50
84 VFN £8
86 VFN £7.50
87 FN £4.95
88 VFN £8
91 VF/NM £7.50
93 VFN £6.50
99 VFN £7
100 FN £14
102 VF/NM £8
108 VF/NM £6.50
112 FN £9.50
123 VFN £6

INCREDIBLE HULK

102 FN/VFN £60

IRON MAN

1 FN/VFN £115
2 VFN £48
3 VFN £36
3 FN- £20
4 FN £15
5 FN/VFN £20
5 VG/FN £11
7 VF/NM £20
8 VFN £16
9 VF/NM £18
10 VF/NM £16
11 FN/VFN £14
12 VG/FN £8
13 FN £12
14 VFN £12.50
15 VF/NM £14
16 VG/FN £4.95
17 VFN £8.50
18 VFN £8.50
19 VG/FN £4.95
20 VG/FN £4.95
21 VFN £6.50
22 FN £6
23 FN £6
24 FN/VFN £7.50
25 VG/FN £4.95
26 VFN £6.50
27 VFN £6.50
28 VFN £7
29 VFN £7
30 FN £6
31 VF/NM £7.50
33 VF/NM £7.50
34 VFN £7
35 VF/NM £7.50
36 FN £6
37 FN £6
39 VG/FN £4.95
40 VFN £7
41 VFN £7
42 FN £6

Iron Man/Sub-Mariner

1 FN £45

MARVEL SUPERHEROES

1 VG £17
12 FN/VFN £28
14 VG £15
14 FN £28
16 VG £16

MARVEL TALES

2 VF/NM £30

NICK FURY VOL.1

2 VFN £12.50
3 VG £6
3 VFN £13
4 VF/NM £12
6 FN £4.95
7 VF/NM £7.50

SILVER SURFER VOL.1

6 FN/VFN £24
9 FN £16
10 FN/VFN £16
11 FN £11
12 FN £11
13 VFN £14
16 FN/VFN £12
17 FN £11

AMAZING SPIDERMAN

Annual 15 VF/NM .. £10
Giant-Size 4 VF/NM (co-stars Punisher) £40
8 FN £150
9 VG/FN £110
15 FN+ £110
16 FN £75
22 FN- £35
24 VG+ £33
28 G/VG £32
34 FN/VFN £36
35 G £9.50
35 VG £18
37 G/VG £15
40 VG/FN £45
49 FN/VFN £14
51 FN £25
54 VG/FN £12
62 VFN £16
63 VG £6.95
65 FN/VFN £14
70 VG/FN £8
70 VFN £14
73 FN £12
76 FN £8
77 FN/VFN £9
78 VG/FN £6
80 FN £8
81 FN £8
84 VG £4.95
86 FN £8
87 FN/VFN £12.50
88 FN £8
90 VG/FN £7.50
92 FN £8
94 VG £7.50
174 VF/NM £9.50
200 VF/NM £8.50
299 VFN £8
302 VFN £4.95
304 VFN £5.50

STRANGE TALES VOL.1

108 FN/VFN £42
109 FN/VFN £30
111 G/VG £28
112 G/VG £12.50
116 G/VG £9.50
119 G £9.50
121 VG £7.50
121 FN £13
123 G/VG £7.50
123 VG/FN £13
125 VG £7.50
128 G/VG £6
128 VFN £14
130 VFN £12.50
131 FN- £11
131 VFN £12
132 FN £14
133 FN- £11
134 VG £5.50
135 VFN £29
136 FN £7
140 VF/NM £8.50
142 VFN £8
144 VF/NM £8.50
145 VFN £7.50
148 VG £6
150 VFN £13
153 VF/NM £9.50
154 VFN £8.50
156 VF/NM £8.50
161 FN/VFN £8
162 VF/NM £8.50
163 VG/FN £5.50
164 VFN £9.95
165 FN/VFN £8.50
166 FN £7.50
167 VG/FN £7

TALES OF SUSPENSE

42 G/VG £36
42 VG £48
43 VG £28
43 VG/FN £55
44 G/VG £27
45 G £23
45 G/VG £25
47 VG+ £29
48 VG+ £28
48 VG/FN £40
(nice white pages!)
49 G £11
49 G/VG £14
50 G £10
50 VG £16
51 G £7
51 VG/FN £12
52 G £10
52 FN £26
53 G £8
55 G/VG £6.50
56 FN- £12
58 VG/FN £35
63 G/VG £10
64 VG+ £9
66 VG £8.95
67 VG/FN £7
68 VG/FN £6
69 VG+ £6.50
70 VFN £14
71 FN £7.50
72 FN £7
73 FN £8.50
75 FN £7
75 FN+ £9

TALES TO ASTONISH

36 G/VG £22
40 G £18
42 VG- £9.50
45 VG/FN £17
56 FN+ £22
56 VG £6.50
57 FN £19
58 FN £12.50
59 G/VG £12
64 FN/VFN £12.50
65 VG/FN £6
66 FN/VFN £12.50
67 VG £7.50
67 FN £10
68 VG £5.50
68 VF/NM £20
69 VG- £6.50
69 VG/FN £9.50
69 FN/VFN £12.50
73 VF/NM £18
74 FN/VFN £10
75 FN £6.50
76 FN/VFN £7.50
78 FN £6.50
82 FN/VFN £14
83 VG £7
83 FN/VFN £9.50
84 FN £6.50
85 FN £6.50
88 FN/VFN £7.50
89 FN/VFN £8.50
89 VFN £12.50
90 VG £6
96 FN/VFN £8.50
97 FN/VFN £8.50
99 FN/VFN £8.50
101 FN £7.50

THOR

100 G £10
101 G £8
120 VG £12.50
122 VG £12
124 VG £12.50
125 FN £17
127 FN £14
128 FN £14
129 VFN £23
130 FN £9.50
131 VFN £23
132 VF/NM £25
132 FN £9.50
133 FN £14
134 FN £18
135 VFN £23
136 VG £8.50
137 VFN £24

UNCANNY X-MEN

Giant-Size 2 VFN £20
1 FAIR/G £150
3 VG £75
4 G £29
4 VG+ £65
5 VG £45
7 VG/FN £35
9 VG/FN £35
10 VG+ £32
10 FN+ £50
11 G £12.50
12 FN/VFN £55
13 VG £25
14 FN/VFN £38
15 FN £28
15 G/VG £16
16 VG £15
17 VG £13
17 FN £22
19 VG £15
20 VG £14
21 VG £12
21 FN £22
22 FN £20
24 FN £20
27 FN £22
29 FN £20
30 FN £20
37 FN/VF £13.50
38 FN/VFN £17
39 FN £12.50
40 FN £12.50
41 FN+ £14
42 FN/VFN £11
43 VG/FN £8
47 FN £6.50
48 FN £9
49 FN/VFN £11

BATMAN

ANNUAL 7 FN- £18
183 VF/FN £6
200 VG/FN £32
(biro mark on cvr)
200 FN/VFN £42
219 FN £8

FLASH VOL.1

ANNUAL 1 VG £30
134 G/VG £7.50
135 VG/FN £9.50
169 VFN £7.50
170 VFN £7.50

GREEN LANTERN VOL.1

3 VG £50
9 G £9.50
11 VG/FN £22
12 VG/FN £22
16 VG/FN £16
17 FN £18
18 VG £12.50
19 FN £28
19 VG £12
23 VG £12.50
28 VG £7
31 VG £9.50
32 VG/FN £12
33 VG £10
33 FN £14
34 VG £11
37 FN £14
39 VG/FN £10
40 VG/FN £50
42 VG/FN £6.50
43 VG/FN £9
44 VF/NM £18
47 FN/VFN £9
48 VFN £17
77 FN £11
85 VFN £20
89 VFN £8.50

HAWKMAN VOL.1

1 G £20
2 VG/FN £25
6 FN/VFN £20
9 VG £6.50
12 VFN £10

J.L.A. VOL.1

8 VG £28
15 FN+ £19.50

METAL MEN VOL.1

1 FN/VFN £99
27 FN/VFN £13

MY GREATEST ADVENTURE

46 FN £8.50
49 VG £6

SHOWCASE VOL.1

30 FN £85
39 VG/FN £30

ORDERING INSTRUCTIONS

Minimum order is £5.00 plus postage. Postage (inland UK) is £3.00 per order (Eire,CI,Overseas - enquire). Postal insurance add 65p. Prices in this list expire **December 15, 1993.** Payment by cheque or postal order payable to **Mega-City.** Visa or Mastercard accepted (quote full number, expiry date and cardholders name - order must be signed by cardholder). All comics are brand new condition, and are first printings unless noted. Please state alternative choices if possible, and allow up to 28 days for delivery (average delivery time 7 days). Full 32-page catalogue plus standing order forms sent free with order. Members of **COBRA** mail-order protection.

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COMICS ECONOMICS

The direct sale market now represents over 85% of US comics publishers sales revenue. The following shows the top titles ordered through the four leading UK & US direct sales distributors. As such it does not reflect retail sales, but instead total orders placed by traders anticipating their retail sales three months ahead.

Direct market order charts: November 1993 titles

Titan Distributors (UK) Top 30 Titles

1	X-Men 28 ($1.25)	Marvel	16	Detective Comics 670 ($1.50)	DC
2	Uncanny X-Men 308 ($1.25)	Marvel	17	A Dame to Kill for 1 ($2.50)	Dark Horse
3	Spawn 18 ($1.95)	Image	18	Aliens/Predator 3 ($2.50)	Dark Horse
4	X-Force 30 ($1.25)	Marvel	19	Action Comics 695 ($1.50)	DC
5	X-Factor 98 ($1.25)	Marvel	20	Previews Vol 3 #11 ($1.50)	Diamond
6	X-Men 2099 #4 ($1.25)	Marvel	21	Gambit 2 ($2.25)	Marvel
7	Batman/Dredd: Vendetta ($5.95)	DC	22	Shadow of the Bat 23 ($1.75)	DC
8	Man without Fear 4 ($2.95)	Marvel	23	Excalibur 73 ($1.75)	Marvel
9	Batman 503 ($1.50)	DC	24	Amazing Spider-Man 385 ($1.25)	Marvel
10	WildC.A.T.S 6 ($1.95)	Image	25	Incredible Hulk 413 ($1.25)	Marvel
11	Wolverine 77 ($1.75)	Marvel	26	Tales of the Jedi 2 ($2.95)	Dark Horse
12	Legends Dark Knight 56 ($1.75)	DC	27	Superman 85 ($1.50)	DC
13	Hellblazer 73 ($1.95)	DC	28	Lobo 2 ($1.75)	DC
14	Spider-Man 2099 #15 ($1.25)	Marvel	29	Spider-Man 42 ($1.75)	Marvel
15	Cable 7 ($2.00)	Marvel	30	Adventures Superman 507 ($1.50)	DC

First Choice Wholesale (UK) Top 30 Titles

1	Uncanny X-Men 308 ($1.25)	Marvel	16	Tales of the Jedi 2 ($2.50)	Dark Horse
2	X-Men 28 ($1.25)	Marvel	17	Aliens: Labyrinth 3 ($2.50)	Dark Horse
3	Batman/Dredd: Vendetta ($4.95)	DC	18	Lobo 2 ($1.75)	DC
4	X-Factor 98 ($1.25)	Marvel	19	Wolverine 77 ($1.75)	Marvel
5	X-Men 2099 #4 ($1.25)	Marvel	20	Catwoman 6 ($1.75)	DC
6	X-Force 30 ($1.25)	Marvel	21	Hellblazer 73 ($1.95)	DC
7	Spawn 18 ($1.95)	Image	22	Aliens/Predator 3 ($2.50)	Dark Horse
8	Solitaire 1 ($2.50)	Ultraverse	23	Spider-Man 42 ($1.75)	Marvel
9	Batman 503 ($1.50)	DC	24	Legends Dark Knight 56 ($1.75)	DC
10	Detective Comics 670 ($1.50)	DC	25	Robin 3 ($1.50)	DC
11	Marvels 1 ($5.95)	Marvel	26	Aliens: Salvation ($4.95)	Dark Horse
12	Sin City 1 ($2.95)	Dark Horse	27	Shadow of the Bat 23 ($1.75)	DC
13	Gambit 2 ($2.00)	Marvel	28	Showcase '94 #1 ($1.75)	DC
14	Daredevil 324 ($1.25)	Marvel	29	Superman 85 ($1.50)	DC
15	Man without Fear 4 ($2.95)	Marvel	30	Nova 1 ($3.50)	Marvel

Diamond Distributors (US) Top 50 Titles

1	Uncanny X-Men 308 ($1.25)	Marvel	26	Amazing Spider-Man 385 ($1.25)	Marvel
2	Spawn 18 ($1.95)	Image	27	Troll 0 ($2.50)	Image
3	X-Men 28 ($1.25)	Marvel	28	Prophet 3 ($1.95)	Image
4	Ninjak 1 ($3.50)	Valiant	29	Shadow of the Bat 23 ($1.75)	DC
5	Action Comics 695 ($2.50)	DC	30	Good Guys 1 ($3.50)	Defiant
6	WildC.A.T.S 6 ($1.95)	Image	31	Spider-Man 42 ($1.75)	Marvel
7	X-Men 2099 #4 ($1.25)	Marvel	32	Codename Strykeforce 4 (1.95)	Image
8	Cyberforce 2 ($1.95)	Image	33	Cable 7 ($2.00)	Marvel
9	Batman 502 ($1.50)	DC	34	Gen 13 #3 ($2.50)	Image
10	Superman 85 ($1.50)	DC	35	Catwoman 6 ($1.75)	DC
11	Adventures Superman 507 ($1.50)	DC	36	Supreme 8 ($1.95)	Image
12	X-Force 30 ($1.25)	Marvel	37	Iron Man 300 ($3.95)	Marvel
13	Shadowhawk III #1 ($2.50)	Image	38	Spider-Man 2099 #15 ($1.25)	Marvel
14	Gambit 2 ($2.00)	Marvel	39	Images of Shadowhawk 3 ($1.95)	Image
15	Superman Man of Steel 29 ($1.50)	DC	40	Man without Fear 4 (2.95)	Marvel
16	Detective Comics 670 ($1.50)	DC	41	Vanguard 2 ($1.95)	Image
17	Wolverine 77 ($1.75)	Marvel	42	Itchy & Scratchy 1 ($2.25)	Bongo
18	X-O Manowar 25 ($3.50)	Valiant	43	SuperPatriot 4 ($1.95)	Image
19	Savage Dragon 6 ($1.95)	Image	44	Turok Dinosaur Hunter 8 ($2.50)	Valiant
20	X-Factor 98 ($1.25)	Marvel	45	Nova 1 ($3.50)	Marvel
21	Stormwatch 7 ($1.95)	Image	46	Daredevil 324 ($1.25)	Marvel
22	Venom The Madness 3 ($2.95)	Marvel	47	Warriors of Plasm 4 ($2.50)	Defiant
23	Simpsons Comics ($2.25)	Bongo	48	Tales of the Jedi 2 ($2.50)	Dark Horse
24	Team Youngblood 3 ($1.95)	Image	49	Dark Dominion 2 ($2.50)	Defiant
25	Phantom Force 1 ($2.50)	Image	50	Solitaire 1 ($2.50)	Ultraverse

Capital City Distribution (US) Top 50 Titles

1	X-Men 28 ($1.25)	Marvel	26	Stormwatch 7 ($1.95)	Image
2	Uncanny X-Men 308 ($1.25)	Marvel	27	Troll ($2.95)	Image
3	Spawn 18 ($1.95)	Image	28	Spider-Man 42 ($1.75)	Marvel
4	Ninjak 1 ($3.50)	Valiant	29	Team Youngblood 3 ($1.95)	Image
5	Action Comics 695 ($1.50)	DC	30	Codename Strykeforce 4 (1.95)	Image
6	X-Men 2099 4 ($1.25)	Marvel	31	Itchy & Scratchy 1 ($2.95)	Bongo
7	Batman 503 ($1.50)	DC	32	Prophet 3 ($1.95)	Image
8	WildC.A.T.S 6 ($1.95)	Image	33	Catwoman 6 ($1.50)	DC
9	Gambit 2 ($2.00)	Marvel	34	Iron Man 300 ($3.95)	Marvel
10	Adventures Superman 508 ($1.50)	DC	35	Cable 7 ($2.00)	Marvel
11	Detective Comics 670 ($1.50)	DC	36	Gen-13 #3 ($1.95)	Image
12	Superman 85 ($1.50)	DC	37	Spider-Man 2099 #15 ($1.25)	Marvel
13	Superman Man of Steel 29 ($1.50)	DC	38	Man without Fear 4 ($2.95)	Marvel
14	X-Force 30 ($1.25)	Marvel	39	Supreme 8 ($1.95)	Image
15	Shadowhawk III #1 ($2.50)	Image	40	Images of Shadowhawk 3 ($2.50)	Image
16	Cyberforce 2 ($1.95)	Image	41	Vanguard 2 ($1.95)	Image
17	Wolverine 77 ($1.75)	Marvel	42	Nova 1 ($3.50)	Marvel
18	Venom The Madness 3 ($2.95)	Marvel	43	Daredevil 324 ($1.25)	Marvel
19	X-Factor 98 ($1.25)	Marvel	44	Tales of the Jedi ($2.95)	Dark Horse
20	X-O Manowar/Armorines 0 #25	Valiant	45	Marvels 1 ($5.95)	Marvel
21	Amazing Spider-Man 385 ($1.25)	Marvel	46	SuperPatriot 4 ($1.95)	Image
22	Savage Dragon 6 ($1.95)	Image	47	Good Guys 1 ($2.95)	Defiant
23	Phantom Force 1 ($1.95)	Image	48	Turok Dinosaur Hunter 8 ($2.50)	Valiant
24	Shadow of the Bat 23 ($1.75)	DC	49	Fantastic Four 384 ($1.25)	Marvel
25	Simpson Comics 1 ($2.95)	Bongo	50	Web of Spider-Man 108 ($1.25)	Marvel

Comics International Top 50: 11/93

WHILE the facing page's charts for the two major US distributors and their UK equivalents throw up interesting differences between buying trends in each country, in an attempt to overview the industry, **Comics International** is now producing its own top fifty chart.

Taking the order levels from each company and factoring in the size of each operation, we are able to produce a chart reflecting the entire month with far greater accuracy than those produced for the record, film or book industry.

As always, this represents the trade orders for titles — meaning retailers believe they can sell the books they are ordering. Whether consumers choose to buy them is a different matter.

1	(2)	Uncanny X-Men 308 ($1.25)	Marvel
2	(4)	X-Men 28 ($1.25)	Marvel
3	(1)	Spawn 18 ($1.95)	Image
4	(16)	Action Comics 695 ($2.95)	DC
5	(new)	Ninjak 1 ($3.50)	Valiant
6	(5)	X-Men 2099 #4 ($1.25)	Marvel
7	(-)	WildC.A.T.S 6 ($1.95)	Image
8	(7)	Batman 503 ($1.50)	DC
9	(12)	Superman 85 ($1.50)	DC
10	(13)	Adventures of Superman 507 ($1.50)	DC
11	(3)	Gambit 2 ($2.00)	Marvel
12	(9)	X-Force 30 ($1.25)	Marvel
13	(6)	Cyberforce 2 ($1.95)	Image
14	(11)	Detective Comics 670 ($1.50)	DC
15	(new)	Shadowhawk III #1 ($1.95)	Image
16	(14)	Superman: Man of Steel 29 ($1.50)	DC
17	(15)	Wolverine 77 ($1.75)	Marvel
18	(22)	X-Factor 98 ($1.25)	Marvel
19	(re)	X-O Manowar 25 ($3.50)	Valiant
20	(19)	Venom: The Madness 2 ($2.95)	Marvel
21	(20)	Savage Dragon 6 ($1.95)	Image
22	(25)	Amazing Spider-Man 385 ($1.25)	Marvel
23	(26)	Stormwatch 7 ($1.95)	Image
24	(new)	Simpsons Comics 1 ($2.95)	Bongo
25	(new)	Phantom Force 1 ($1.95)	Image
26	(28)	Shadow of the Bat 23 ($1.75)	DC
27	(21)	Team Youngblood 3 ($1.95)	Image
28	(new)	Troll 0 ($2.50)	Image
29	(32)	Spider-Man 42 ($1.75)	Marvel
30	(24)	Prophet 3 ($1.95)	Image
31	(29)	Codename: Stryke Force 4 ($1.95)	Image
32	(30)	Cable 7 ($2.00)	Marvel
33	(re)	Catwoman 6 ($1.75)	DC
34	(re)	Gen 13 #3 ($1.95)	Image
35	(new)	Iron Man 300 ($3.95)	Marvel
36	(40)	Spider-Man 2099 #15 ($1.25)	Marvel
37	(new)	Good Guys 1 ($2.95)	Defiant
38	(38)	Supreme 8 ($1.95)	Image
39	(47)	Daredevil Man w/out Fear 4 ($2.95)	Marvel
40	(new)	Itchy & Scratchy 1 ($2.95)	Bongo
41	(39)	Images of Shadowhawk 3 ($1.95)	Image
42	(17)	Vanguard 2 ($1.95)	Image
43	(new)	Nova 1 ($3.50)	Marvel
44	(44)	SuperPatriot 4 ($1.95)	Image
45	(re)	Daredevil 324 ($1.25)	Marvel
46	(31)	Tales of the Jedi 2 ($2.95)	Dark Horse
47	(45)	Turok: Dinosaur Hunter 8 ($2.50)	Valiant
48	(new)	Marvels 1 ($4.95)	Marvel
49	(41)	Warriors of Plasm 4 ($2.95)	Defiant
50	(new)	Batman/Dredd: Vendetta ($4.95)	DC

Marvel Comics top ten domination of the last three months has been broken, although the two **X-Men** titles are back with the top two positions and **X-Men 2099** still features in the top ten. Marvel's overall share of the 50 is 34%, which has been consistent throughout the year. Although they have dropped to a 30% share of the top ten.

Image Comics still hold a high 32% share of the 50, also consistent with recent months, but it is becoming increasingly obvious that outside of **Spawn** and **WildC.A.T.S**, little except first issues make the top ten. Surprisingly, of the three new releases from the company only **Shadowhawk III** places well, yet creator Jim Valentino is considered to be the least popular artist among Image's hot creators.

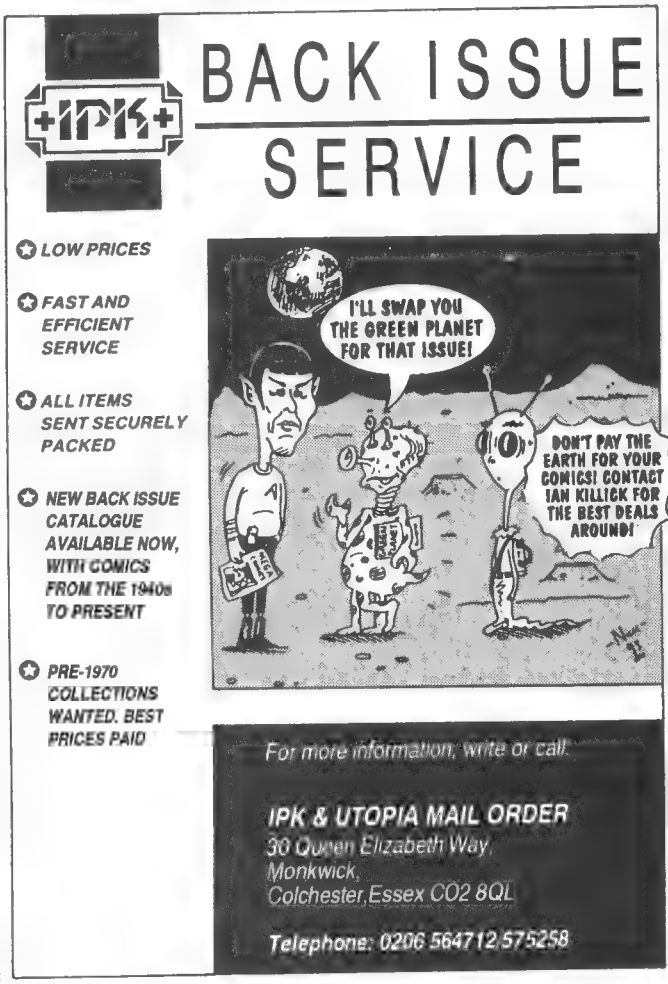
DC Comics stay with an 18% market share, due mainly to the continued success of **Superman** and **Batman** related titles. **Catwoman** has surprised a lot of people since its launch, and retailer and fan appreciation has seen the title re-enter the charts at 33. **Batman/Judge Dredd: Vendetta in Gotham** charts, helped by high orders in Britain, as it seems the American market's interest in this second team-up was waned, largely due to the absence of Simon Bisley, who was drew the first successful crossover.

Defiant: **Dark Dominion** slips out of the 50, but is replaced by **The Good Guys**, which creeps in at number 37. **Warriors of Plasm** stays in the 50 by a whisker, and news that the cover price is to be lowered may help it chart next month.

Malibu: Ultraverse has no placing in this month's 50, but the positions between 51-70 see all seven Ultraverse titles waiting to break into the chart with the *Breakthru* crossover.

Valiant: **X-O Manowar** 25 is a high Valiant chart entry, due largely to the insert of **Armorines 0**. But this is eclipsed by **Ninjak** which comes in at number 5, largely on the strength — it seems — of Joe Quesada. Valiant drop from 8% to 6% of the share of the chart, but must be encouraged with **Turok**'s grim determination to hang onto a top 50 spot and remain their most consistent seller.

Bongo Comics: Matt Groening's new line of titles has burst into the charts, both November shipping titles **Itchy & Scratchy** and **Simpsons Comics** have emphasised the popularity of the cartoonist.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RANSON NOTES

A monthly column in which leading comics artist Arthur Ranson examines the social impact, artistic content and foibles of contemporary comics and their creators.

"WHAT'S in a name?" Shakespeare; Romeo and Juliet.

Nothing like a good quote to give a sense of intellectual weight, even if the mental powers needed to do it are only those required to help remember where you put the dictionary of quotations that auntie gave you two Christmases ago.

Here's another: *"...has the comics industry become too bitchy?... The joy of comics for me comes from not taking them too seriously".* Patrick Butler (*Letters*, **Comics International** 34).

That's not in any work of literary reference that I know of, but I read it during the time I was making notes for a piece about graphic novels. These notes, reflecting my disenchantment at the time, read like a script conference for Everett True (a cartoon character from the 1900s whose temper and intolerance led to instant and brutal beatings for fools, bores, big mouths, artists and other irritating characters).

As to Mr Butler's first point, in my experience the comics industry has always been bitchy, but prior to the publication of comics-related magazines, the insults were confined to four-ale bars. His real point, I take it, relates to the quality of criticism of and about comics. A point, synchronistically enough, made by Paul Amman on the same letters page, *"It's not until other media actually accept out hobby has a wide diversity... that we will see serious comments, [and] meaningful coverage."*

And Guy Lawley, editor of **Comics Forum** for the Comics Creators Guild, *"We British need to... start a proper comics criticism. Otherwise comics will continue to be under appreciated and misunderstood."*

One can understand and sympathise with the desire to be regarded as "serious", "meaningful" and "proper". It's tiresome to live in a society where telling of one's involvement in a popular art form can prompt the same reaction as confessing to selling condoms from a suitcase in the vicinity of Kings Cross station.

The very name (see Shakespeare above) "comicbook", applied to other art forms: theatre, film or novels is a term of abuse indicating one-dimensional characterisation, plots and situations that beggar belief, lack of motivation, disregard for real life, natural law, actions having consequence, worse, disregard for the constraints the story itself has set. In short, a total lack of believability.

There was an attempt to alter this perception of comics by calling them *strip-illustration*. This didn't quite catch on or go far in giving comics social or intellectual status.

Oddly enough, the new euphemism: Graphic Novel, did. (what copy-writer, ad-man or P.R person first passed this term off onto an unsuspecting public? I hope he got his just deserts.)

In attracting media attention, new readers, new creators and giving all creators new possibilities, it has been a success. It's been good for the business. So why do I feel more shifty when *graphic novel* comes up in conversation, than I ever did when I just worked for *comics*? It's because I feel that I am involved in a scam, a confidence trick.

In ordinary parlance, the word novel has a particular meaning, but put the word graphic in front of it and that definition of the word novel is totally subverted.

Despite still thinking of a 10p piece as two-bob (ask your parents) I'm not as old and reactionary as to be concerned about words changing their applications. If *graphic novel* serves to replace the word *album* and describe a comic over a certain length with a thick cover, so be it. My reservation stems more from the expectations the name excites, and the pretensions it engenders.

Expectations and pretensions that graphic novels have signally failed to deliver — with a few honourable exceptions.

It has been claimed that comics could potentially be a literary form on an equal footing with others up to and including Tolstoy. With due respect, I've never believed that possible or even desirable. There are areas that comics are not capable of dealing with, if they are to remain true to their nature.

There is a good deal of confusion in some quarters between literary and comic book ambitions, resulting in works that are successful by neither literary or comic book criteria. *"The Merchant, to secure his treasure, conveys it in another name: Euphelia serves to grace my measure but Chloe is my flame."* Matthew Prior; an ode.

For Euphelia and Chloe substitute literature and comics or comics and literature.

There is schizophrenia about who constitutes the audience. The comic fan is obliged to endure graphic novels laden down with poor prose and worse verse in the mistaken belief that this gives literary quality. References to, and quotes from: literature, poetry, psychology and mythology are stuck in like currants in a pudding. Meaningful bits in what can otherwise be a slight, trite story. To attract "mature readers", graphic novels are taken directly from books. Here the poor artist is obliged to illustrate something adequately described in words, to draw frame after frame of conversation, and often resort to visual devices primarily designed to distract the reader from noticing that the story has stopped for the time being. There is also one at least that, aimed at mature readers, contains references to a super hero universe that only the most devoted comic fan could understand.

None of this matters too much except in as far as it might promote disenchantment amongst potential buyers. They are however being offered a wider range of material than ever before and are capable of deciding for themselves what they will pay for.

My own disquiet comes from the failure of graphic novels to live up to the promise the name implies, that of an improvement in quality.

Rather than have graphic novels ceasing to be comics my expectation was that, freed from the constraints of weekly deadlines, quick turnover, short-shelf-life, limitations of space, a narrow perception of who the audience was, etc., it would be possible to produce comics that were as good of their kind as regular books are of theirs.

The meaningful criticism called for needs to identify what is special to the comic form. What unique qualities does it have as a narrative means that distinguishes it from the book, film, play or opera? And to what kinds of narrative types of story it is most compatible?

A. S. Byatt, in a preface to her book *Possession* is fastidious enough to draw a distinction between a romance (her book) and a novel, quoting Nathaniel Hawthorne. *"... a novel... aim[s] at a minute fidelity not merely to the possible, but to the probable and ordinary course of man's experience. ...a romance... as a work of art, it must rigidly subject itself to laws... [but]...has a right to present truth under circumstances, to a great extent, of the writers choosing or creation."*

This quote is included not to support my prejudice against the term novel when applied to comic books, but because of its implication of one of the cardinal rules of the romance, that it can set its own rules but should then apply them "rigidly".

Whatever premise a story starts from, super-powers, time travel, or somesuch, it should work logically from it, and the idea that one aspect of reality is altered does not mean that all the others can be ignored. Whatever universe is created it needs to be consistent and convincing. It's not good enough that all that has gone before in the story is ignored in order for the hero to thwart the villain. Neither should it excuse authors from the duty of constructing a good story in every other aspect. Call a comic a *graphic novel* and there is no excuse whatsoever. But it happens.

Artists do a similar thing too. Bad guy points gun at hero. Visual clues signify they are thirty foot apart. Next frame, hero knocks gun from bad guys fist. Oh really?

All the complaints I've made about graphic novels can be supported by evidence and names, Fortunately, I haven't the space.

What I am suggesting is that if the name *graphic novel* is to mean any thing, the work should match up to the rigour, integrity and attention that the name implies.

As to the joy of comics... *"Away with systems! Away with a corrupt world! Let us breath the air of the enchanted island."* George Meridith: **The Ordeal of Richard Feveral**.

Finally, let me confess that the quotes are to show how easy it is to look literate.

***Arthur Ranson** is one of the UK's top comics artists. In the 1970s, he started work at **Look-In** and for many years drew a wide range of TV and pop-related strips. It is a mark of his versatility that, having won popular and critical acclaim for Danger Mouse, he went on to achieve the same with Judge Anderson: Psi Division and Buttonman for **2000AD**.*

*His first US work, **Batman: Legends of the Dark Knight - Tao** was published last month.*

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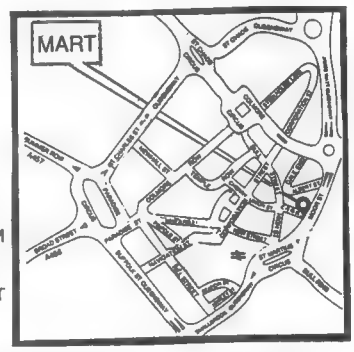

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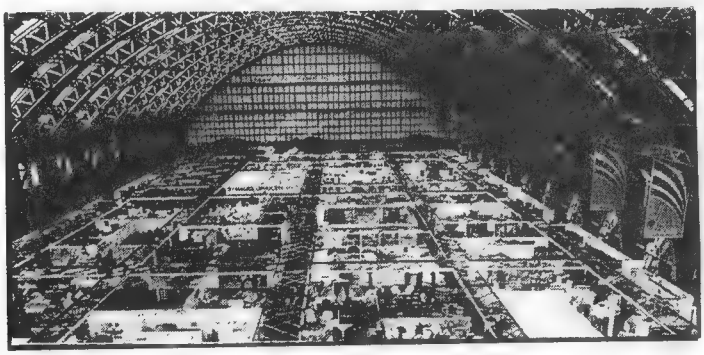

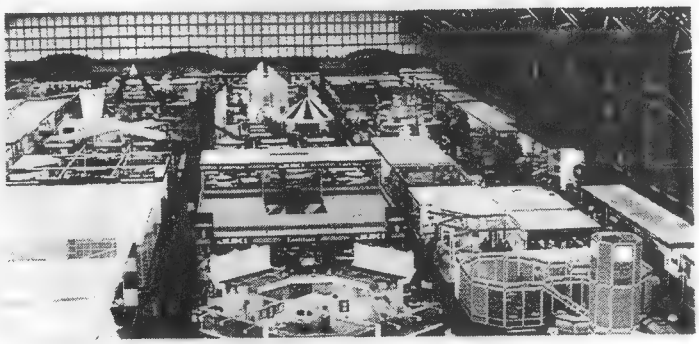

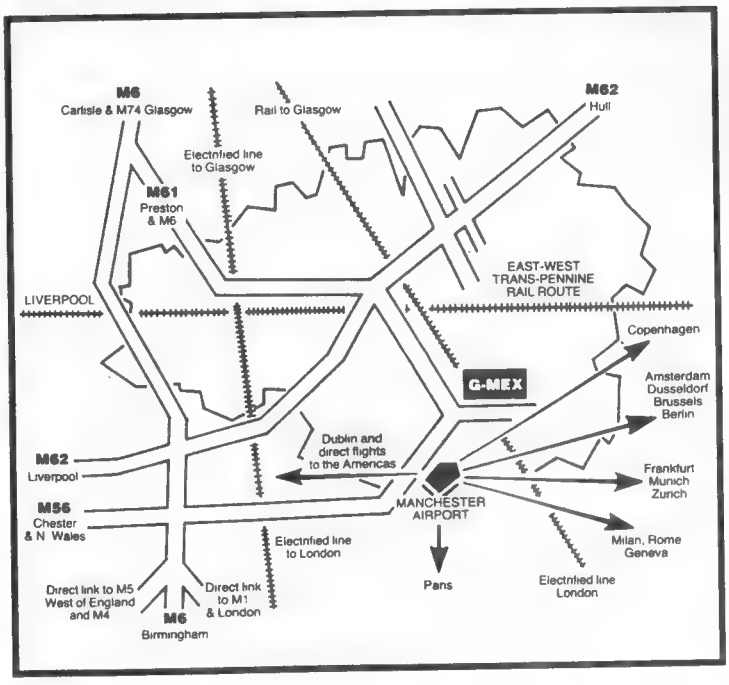

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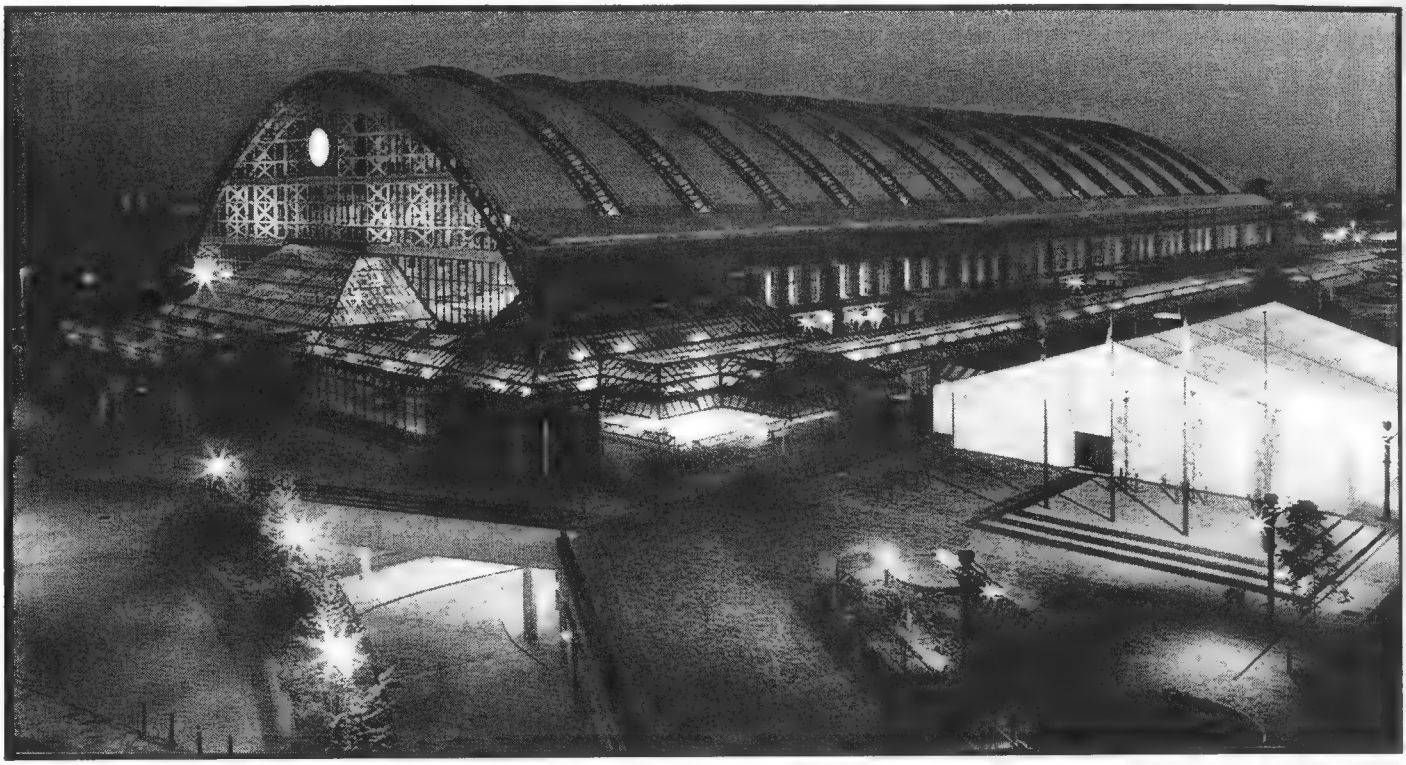

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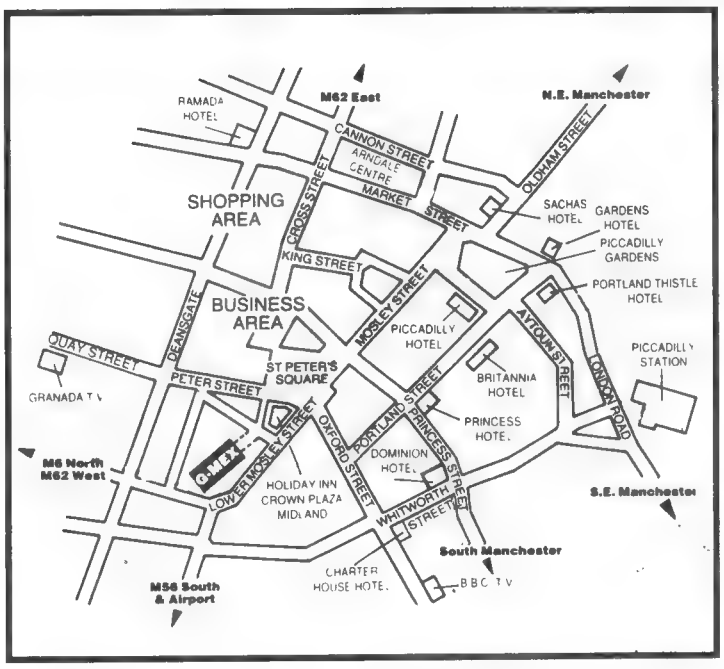

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Key to abbreviations used:

1 & 2 + 3	=	*Writer & penciller + inker*
sqbd	=	*perfect bound; squared spine; without staples*
b&w	=	*black & white content*
pc	=	*part-colour content*
hbk	=	*hardback (book) edition*
tpbk	=	*trade paperback, squarebound, comic size*
Xpg	=	*number of interior pages*

V = violence; N = nudity; S = sex

All comics are 32 page colour titles unless stated otherwise

SHIPPING DEC '93-JAN '94

AARDVARK-VANAHEIM

☐ **Cerebus 177** (Sim & Gerhard) *Mothers and Daughters Book Three — Reads, Part 3.* Victor Reid attempts to get his *Ascension* story published. b&w $2.25

AC COMICS

☐ **Femforce 68** (Black & Horn + Heike) The AC universe's occult-based characters see their world turned upside down by the Black Phantom. Back-up story is *Colt, the Weapons Mistress*.. . . . . $2.95

☐ **Good Girl Art Quarterly 14** (Heike & Smoot) She-Cat's image takes a new direction after she inadvertently saves the US President's life. $3.95

ARCHIE COMICS

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☐ **Betty 13** $1.25
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☐ **TMNT Adventures 54** . . $1.25
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NEW ☐ **Bartman 1** (Groening & Vance + Morrison) First of a spin-off series based on the animated TV series, *The Simpsons.* Bartman faces the terrible threat of Ms. Krabappel — and summer school. $2.95

NEW ☐ **Radioactive Man 1** (Groening & Vance + Morrison) First of another spin-off series based on the characters in TV's *The Simpsons.* Features Radioactive Man's battle with his nemesis, Dr Crab. $2.95

CALIBER PRESS

NEW ☐ **Caligari 2050: Another Sleepless Night** (Holewczynski) Futuristic one-shot, in which New City's population — with the exception of one individual — is under the control of a mysterious external power. 64pg b&w. $3.95

NEW ☐ **Dragon's Star 1** (of 3; Bramstrup & Cullen) First of a limited series revolving around two humans caught in the middle of a cosmic war. b&w $2.95

☐ **Happy the Clown 2** (Francis & Mack) The organisation which has set its sights on killing Happy assigns a team of ninjas to carry out his assassination. $2.95

☐ **Realm 7** (Truax & Marquez) The latigo elves, despite being involved in a revolution, choose a new leader. b&w $2.95

☐ **Negative Burn: An Anthology 6** (various) Featuring *Mr Mamoulian* (Bolland); *Vixen* (Lloyd) and **Classics Desecrated** (Wheeler). b&w $2.95

NEW ☐ **Sirens 1** (Williams & Drury + Bordell) First of a limited series following Jeff Delmar's fate after he is pulled into the mysterious world of the loup-garou — the Sirens. 48pg. b&w . . $3.95

NEW ☐ **Stratosfear 1** (of 3; Birch & Oakley + Crutchley) Mini-series s. in a futuristic Britain ruled by a group called The County. b&w . . $2.95

NEW ☐ **Roadkill: Deadworld Chronicles 1** (Stone Jr & Dorman) First issue of a new companion title to the **Deadworld** series. b&w $2.95

COMICO

☐ **Avalon 4** (of 4; Dunphy + Neel & Akins) At the tomb of Arthur Pendragon, the battle for the kingdom is underway. New alliances pose a threat to the future of the realm. . . . . $2.50/$3.50

CONTINUITY

☐ **Armor 9 (1993)** (Stone & Klasic) *Rise of Magic* tie-in. Armor, having gained new powers, decides to join the dark side. $2.50

☐ **Crazyman Volume 2 #6** (Stone & Barry) *Rise of Magic* tie-in. Crazyman discovers that he is even more powerful when he's in the magical dimension. $2.50

☐ **Cyberrad Volume 2 #7** (Stone & Adams + Luti) Cyberrad finds out about the origin of his name and why he is the most unique of all the cybernauts. $2.50

☐ **Earth 4 Volume 3 #6** (Stone & ?) *Rise of Magic* tie-in. A personnel disaster for Urth draws the team into the Rise of Magic. $2.50

☐ **Hybrids 2** (Stone & Deodato + Klasic) *Rise of Magic* tie-in. Magic is looking for followers. The Hybrids are his first target, and if he succeeds, his demonic powers will increase as a result. $2.50

☐ **Megalith 9 (1993)** (Stone & Infante + Saichan) *Rise of Magic* tie-in. Megalith has fallen to Magic, and the servants of the dark dimension have found a pathway between the worlds. $3.00

☐ **Ms Mystic Volume 3 #6** (Stone & Ross) *Rise of Magic* tie-in. Ms Mystic joins the Shaman in the hunt for an answer to one of mankind's age-old questions. $2.50

☐ **Samuree Volume 2 #6** (Stone & Deodato) *Rise of Magic* tie-in. Samuree battles War to stop the conflict's escalation. $2.50

☐ **Shaman 2 (Retailer Incentive Comic)** (Stone & various) *Rise of Magic* tie-in. Revelation of Shaman's true origin and his key role in the crossover storyline. . . . . n/a

NEW ☐ **Time Master** (Stone & Coates) One-shot *Rise of Magic* tie-in. The Time Master joins the Hybrids in a battle against Magic's hordes. $2.50

DARK HORSE

SHIPPING DECEMBER 14TH

☐ **Caravan Kidd II #7** (Manabe) Milan and the boys face GRIEF, the all-women revolutionary force seen in the first series. b&w $2.50

☐ **Cheval Noir 49** (anthology) Featuring: *Sylvia* (Hollander); *Blueberry* (Charlier & Moebius); *Rork: Capricorn* (Andreas); *Just Folks* (Geary). b&w $2.95

☐ **Dark Horse Presents 80** Featuring: *Monkeyman and O'Brien* (Art Adams); *Shadow Empires, Part 2* (of 3; Moeller); *Eyeball Kid, Part 5* (of 9; Campbell) b&w $2.50

☐ **Floaters 4** (of 5; Fagan + Lee & Tooks) Thrym heads straight for the factory where the deadly Cloud Nine is manufactured. But the Floaters are close behind. b&w . . . $2.50

☐ **John Byrne's Next Men: Faith 3** (of 4; Byrne + Webb & Mignola) John Byrne's Next Men meet Mike Mignola's Hellboy in the first official *Legends* crossover. $2.50

NEW ☐ **The Mark 1** (of 4; Barr & Rader) First of a mini-series continuing a story from **Dark Horse Comics**. The Mark returns to America to teach New Yorkers the El-train etiquette. $2.50

☐ **Out of the Vortex 3** (of 12; Ostrander & Willis + Rubinstein) Two of the universe's most powerful beings fight as Vortex confronts the Seekers' leader, Sister Jeqon.$2.00

☐ **Version 2.5** (Sakaguchi) Deep under the sea, Hap and Eiko must face their worst nightmare. Black Echo starts his plans to eradicate all life on Earth. b&w $2.50

NEW ☐ **The Thing From Another World: Eternal Vows 1** (of 4; deVries & Gulacy + Davis) First of a limited series featuring the characters introduced in Jon Carpenter's remake of 1951 Christian Nybey/Howard Hawks film. A detective sets off from New Zealand's mainland to an isolated island to investigate a series of bizarre murders. $2.50

SHIPPING DECEMBER 21ST

☐ **Age of Reptiles 2** (of 4; Delgado) Continuing the adventures of a pack of prehistoric Deinonycuses and their seemingly endless battle with a belligerent Tyrannosaurus Rex. $2.50

☐ **Basil Wolverton's Fantastic Fables 2** (of 2; Wolverton) Space-age super-science and a complete *Spacehawk* story. b&w . . . $2.50

NEW ☐ **Godzilla vs Barkley** (Baron & Butler + Aiken) The 200-foot tall Japanese fire-breathing monster against the seven-foot US basketball star. Round one is baskets, round two is destroying Tokyo! $2.95

☐ **Grendel Tales: Four Devils, One Hell 5** (of 6; Robinson & Kristiansen) Gloria continues with her quest — while Bixby is beset by demons. $2.95

☐ **Lux & Alby 9** (Dark Horse International; Millar & Fraser) A bizarre confrontation between Iskar's interdimensional hordes and the occupants of Maggie's warehouse rave. $2.50

☐ **Robocop: Mortal Coils 4** (Grant & Gnazzo + Patterson) Last instalment has Agincourt playing his final card as he dies, leaving Murphy and Hooks to face Henchman and a the improved ED-209. . . . . $2.50

☐ **Star Wars: Tales of the Jedi 3** (Veitch & Johnstone) Nomi Sunrider soon discovers that the path to becoming a true Jedi is far more dangerous than she at first imagined. $2.50

SHIPPING DECEMBER 28TH

☐ **Dark Horse Comics 16** (anthology) Featuring: *Predator* (Moore & Gregory + Haynes); *Aliens: Cargo* (Jolley & Nadeau + Pallot); *The Thing From Another World* (Martin III & Naifeh + Baumann) Mature readers. $2.50

☐ **Enemy 1** (of 5; Grant & Schenck + Hendrix) First of a limited series introducing a new vigilante hero. Enemy is hot on the trail of a serial killer whom the FBI thinks is Enemy himself. $2.50

☐ **Predator: Bad Blood 1** (of 4; Dorkin & Thompson + Warner) First of a limited series dealing with a psychotic alien — rather than the cyborg hunter. An ex-CIA operative knows the truth of the matter, but

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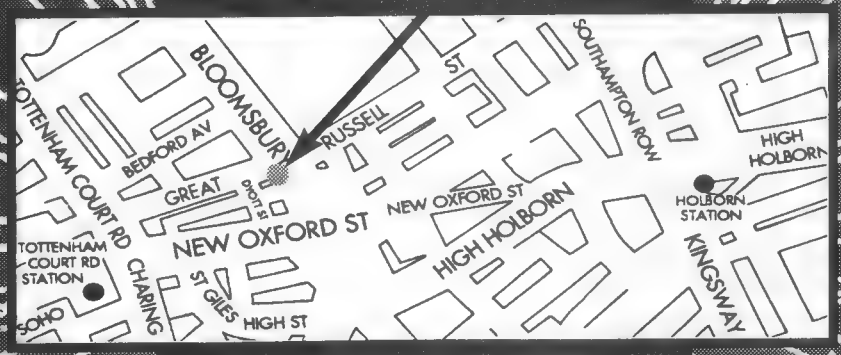

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it's a question of convincing the authorities that he's right. . . $2.50

☐ **The Shadow: In the Coils of Leviathan 2** (of 4; Kaluta & Goss + Gianni) The monster in the sewers continues killing innocents. But one of the victims has survived, giving the police and The Shadow the first real lead. $2.50

SHIPPING JANUARY 4TH

☐ **Aliens: Colonial Marines 8** (Puckett & Nadeau + Guinan) Lt Henry gears himself up for a final confrontation with the Alien menace. Armed with prototype weapons, he must redirect the super-powered synthetic Liston's programme for his own purposes. $2.50

NEW ☐ **Hammer of God: Pentathlon** (Baron & Vokes + Geldhof) The Hammer (from **Nexus**) is back in a one-shot special in which he represents his planet in the 2493 Mars Olympics. But before he enters the events, he has to stymie the plans of some intergalactic assassins. . . . $2.50

☐ **Indiana Jones: Thunder in the Orient 5** (of 6; Barry + Mushynsky) Indy is so besotted with the Serpent Lady that he almost overcomes his fear of snakes. However, he cannot forget the threat of the Imperial Japanese Army. $2.50

☐ **Sin City: A Dame to Kill 2** (of 6; Miller) Photographer Dwight comes face to face with a woman from his past — Ava — who has information which proves more than useful to him. Mature readers. $2.95

DC COMICS

SHIPPING NOVEMBER 23RD

☐ **Green Lantern 48** (Marz & Willingham + Tanghal) Green Lantern surveys the destroyed Coast City in what turns out to be a turning point in the life of Hal Jordan. $1.50

SHIPPING DECEMBER 14TH

NEW ☐ **Batman: The Mask of the Phantasm — The Animated Movie** (Puckett & Parobeck + Burchett) DC Comics' adaptation of the animated movie. Prestige and standard editions. 64pg $4.95/2.95

☐ **Batman 504** (Moench & Manley) *Knightquest: The Crusade.* Batman thinks that the Catwoman has stolen a consignment of nerve gas — unaware that she, too, is in pursuit of the thieves. $1.50

NEW ☐ **Batman Adventures: Mad Love** (Dini & Timm) One-shot (no ads), featuring the secret origin of Harley Quinn. Ties in with the Batman animated movie adaptation. 64pg $3.95

NEW ☐ **Batman: In Darkest Knight** (Elseworlds; Barr & Bingham) Speculative one-shot, featuring the story of what would have happened if the dying Green Lantern, Abin Sur, had selected Bruce Wayne as his successor. 48pg. $4.95

☐ **Black Orchid 6** (Vertigo; Foreman & Thompson + Woch) The Orchid and Sherilyn's flight ends up in San Antonio, Texas, where they are initiated into some of the rites of native American occult. . . . $1.95

☐ **Chain Gang War 8** (J Wagner &

Johnson) Chain Gang do the rounds of illegal gambling dens in the search for Crooked Man, an underworld kingpin. $1.75

☐ **Deathstroke, the Terminator 33** (Wolfman & Erwin + Blyberg) *Deathstroke's World Tour: Part 7* (of 8). Vigilante intervenes to save Slade Wilson, who has strayed into a deadly mind-warping building in Dallas. $1.75

☐ **Flash 87** (Waid & Wierango + Marzan Jr) With his speed levels regained and increasing, Flash begins to find it hard to keep his merely ordinary friends. . . . $1.50

☐ **Hardware 11** (Milestone; McDuffie & Buckler) Hardware and Harm now decide that whatever the problem is between them will have to be sorted out, one way or another. $1.50

☐ **Legionnaires 11** (T & M Bierbaum & Sprouse + Hughes + Story) Kid Quantum joins the team, just as several members mysteriously disappear. . . . $1.50

☐ **Sandman Mystery Theatre 11** (Vertigo; M Wagner & R G Taylor) *The Brute, Part 3* (of 4). The Golden Age Sandman delves deeper into the horrific secrets behind the Brute. Mature readers. $1.95

☐ **Shade, the Changing Man 44** (Vertigo; Milligan & Bachalo + Bryant) *History Lesson, Part 3* (of 3). Shade and Constantine fight for the future as Lenny and Kathy are tried as witches in Salem. Mature readers. $1.95

☐ **The Spectre 15** (Ostrander & Mandrake) The Phantom Stranger recruits the Demon, Doctor Fate and John Constantine in order to challenge the Spectre's ominous judgement on mankind. . . . $1.75

☐ **Star Trek 57** (Weinstein & Davis + Starr) The timeline is restored, but Sulu and Kirk are trapped in the past. $1.75

NEW ☐ **Superboy 1** (Kesel & Grummett + Hazlewood) First of an ongoing series starring the boy/clone Superman. Having relocated to Hawaii, the boy faces a three-armed villain who claims that they have met before. $1.50

☐ **Superman: The Man of Steel 30** (L Simonson & Bogdanove + Janke) Superman battles Lobo in outer space — and discovers that he no longer requires breathing apparatus in the vacuum. $1.50

☐ **Valor 16** (Waid & Doran) *DOA Part 5* (of 6). Valor has only 24 hours to live, but that doesn't prevent him from being crowned king of the planet he has just saved from destruction. $1.50

☐ **Wonder Woman 83** (Loebs & Moder + Parks) Wonder Woman's powers are fading and Ares Buchanan seizes the chance to destroy her. $1.50

SHIPPING DECEMBER 21ST

☐ **Batman: Shadow of the Bat 24** (Grant & Blevins) *Knightquest: The Search* continues with The Dark Knight setting his sights on the illegal baby trade. $1.75

☐ **Death Talks About Life** (Vertigo; Gaiman & McKean) Free reprint of the AIDS strip. 8pg

☐ **The Demon 44** (Ennis & McCrea) Asteroth raises the dread Gotho-Daemon — and Etrigan must trust the Hitman if they are going to defeat the monster. $1.75

☐ **Green Lantern 49** (G.Jones & Haynes + Tanghal) The new heads of the Guardians appoint Sinestro leader of the Corps, in an attempt to stop Hal Jordan's rampaging shenanigans. $1.50

☐ **Hawkman 6** (Ostrander & Lieber + Magyar) Hawkman & Hawkwoman team up with Justice Leaguers and the Eradicator to defeat Count Viper. $1.75

☐ **Hellblazer 74** (Vertigo; Ennis & S Dillon) *Damnation's Flame, Part 3* (of 4). Constantine, still trapped in a nightmare version of America, turns to the country's heartland for an answer to his question. Mature readers. $1.95

☐ **Icon 10** (Milestone; McDuffie & Bright + Gustovich) Icon goes in search of Holocaust — and Rocket discovers she is pregnant. . $1.50

☐ **Justice League America 85** (Vado & West) Ice and brother Ewald face each other in the final part of Ice's return story. . . $1.50

☐ **Kid Eternity 10** (Vertigo; Nocenti & Phillips) The world of street-hustling and pornography are explored by the naive Kid. Mature readers. $1.95

☐ **The Legion of Super-Heroes 54** (McCraw & Immonen + Boyd) A new direction begins for the Legion as one member lies dead and others are strangely altered. 28-pages; die-cut cover. $1.75

NEW ☐ **LoboCop 1** (Grant & Emond) One-shot. Lobo dies, unexpectedly, and his body is taken by a corporation bent on turning him into the ultimate law enforcer. $1.95

☐ **The New Titans 107** (Wolfman & Jaaska) Nightwing attempts to comfort Starfire — and the Titans return to Earth. $1.75

☐ **S.T.A.R. Corps 4** (of 6; Vado & Felchle + Machlan) Mindgame's experiments create a new corps — the Ndoki. $1.50

NEW ☐ **Supergirl 1** (of 4; Stern & Brigman + Guice) First of a limited series. Supergirl begins to realise that Lex Luthor is not as he appears. $1.95

☐ **Superman 86** (Jurgens + Rubinstein) Superman finds what's left of the Sun Devils, and begins to come to terms with his new, improved powers. $1.50

SHIPPING DECEMBER 28TH

☐ **Adventures of Superman 509** (K Kesel & Kitson & McCarthy) The Man of Steel unites with the super-powered clone of the Guardian Auron (who also has some of Superman's DNA) to deal with an alien invasion. $1.50

☐ **Animal Man 68** (Vertigo; Delano & Pugh) Maxine — Bud's young daughter — is beginning to show more bizarrely familiar behavioural traits. $1.95

☐ **Batman: Legends of the Dark Knight 57** (Dixon & McMahon) *Watchtower, Part 3* (of 3). The Batman goes to war with Vigil Inc., his target: their president. . $1.75

☐ **Blood Syndicate 11** (Milestone; Velez, Jr & Chriscross & Hendrix) Featuring the introdcuction of two new members, Oro and Aquamaria; plus more on Kwai's past and Fade's future. $1.50

☐ **Detective Comics 671** (Dixon &

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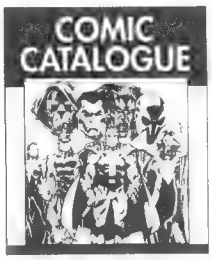

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Kitson + Hanna) *Knightquest: The Crusade* continues as the Joker faces his first encounter with Azrael. Things start to go wrong for the clown as he realises this isn't the Batman he knows of old. . . $1.50

☐ **Eclipso 16** (Fleming & Newman + Kryssing) America's superheroes and a UN military force prepare for an all-out assault on Parador and Eclipso. $1.50

NEW ☐ **Fighting American 1** (of 6; Rawson + McGreal & LaRocque + Space) First of a mini-series revamping Joe Simon and Jack Kirby's 1940s classic series for the '90s. $1.50

... **Justice League Task Force 9** (Loeb & LaRocque + Percy) Martian Manhunter leads a team of New Blood heroes against the fury of Wildman. $1.50

☐ **L.E.G.I.O.N '93 63** (Peyer & Jorgenson + Pascoe) Superman guest stars as Lobo tries to make it up with him after the recent events in Superman's own title. . . $1.75

☐ **Legion of Super-Heroes Archives Volume 4** (hdb; various) Collected reprints of the classic Legion stories. 224pg . . . $39.95

☐ **Outsiders 3** (Barr & Pelletier + Campanella) The Eradicator joins forces with the Outsiders in an attempt to bring the vampire Roderick to justice. $1.75

☐ **Sandman 57** (Vertigo; Gaiman & Hempel) First of the final major story of the series, *The Kindly Ones*. Many old faces show up for a mystic conflagration appparently destined to change the future of the Endless. $1.75

☐ **Showcase '94 2** (of 12; Robinson + various & Alamy + various) Including the finale of the Joker's story, a Blue Beetle feature and the introduction of a New Blood hero. 48pg $1.95

☐ **Star Trek Next Generation 57** (Friedman & Skelton) Picard finds himself helpless to save the lives of Deanna, Selar and Worf. . . $1.75

NEW ☐ **Steel 1** (L Simonson + Bogdanove & Batista + Faber) First of an ongoing series. John Henry Irons heads for Washington DC for a new life. There he assumes the mantle of Steel — one of the fake Supermen. $1.50

☐ **Team Titans 17** (Jensen & Jimenez + Blyberg) Deathwing has been separated from Raven and now finds another ally. The question of the Leader's identity nears its resolution. $1.75

SHIPPING JANUARY 4TH

☐ **Action Comics 696** (Stern & Guice + Rodier) Superman faces the sole protector of a barren world. $1.50

NEW **American Freak: A Tale of the Un-Men 1** (of 5; Vertigo; Louapre & Locke) When a young man's genetic structure begins to break down he discovers that he is the freakish product of a failed government experiment. Mature readers. $1.95

☐ **Aquaman: Time and Tide 3** (of 4; David & Jarvinen + Vancata) Arthur battles a polar bear to save an Enuit woman. Meanwhile, the fearsome Nuliajak, mother of all sea-beasts awaits him. . . . $1.50

☐ **The Batman Adventures 17** (Puckett & Parobeck + Burchett) Batman and Robin face arch-nemesis Ra's al Ghul. $1.50

☐ **Catwoman 6** (Duffy & Balent + Giordano) *Knightquest: The Crusade*. Catwoman escapes Batman's cage and goes in search of the nerve-gas terrorists. . $1.50

☐ **The Darkstars 17** (Friedman & Taylor + Branch) The identity of the murderer and technology thief is revealed — but it's a surprise for the Darkstars. $1.75

☐ **Demolition Man 4** (of 4; Cohn & Whigham + Giordano) Adaptation of Sylvestor Stallone's film. . . $1.75

☐ **Doom Patrol 75** (Vertigo; Pollack & McKeever) *The Teiresas Wars, Part 1* (of 5). When a terrifying scenario is unveiled in the bowels of the Pentagon, it seems as if the Doom Patrol may offer the only way out. Mature readers. $1.95

☐ **Green Arrow 83** (Dixon & Aparo + Ferndez) Green Arrow runs into a nocturnal predator who has been preying on women. $1.75

☐ **Guy Gardner: Warrior 17** (Dixon & Byrd + Strangeland) Guy battles Militia, who turns out to the former Lantern's brother, Mace. . . $1.50

☐ **Justice League International 61** (Jones + Jacobs & Wojtkiewicz) The JLI encounter Godfrey, an alien who seems to be omnipotent. . . $1.50

NEW ☐ **Legends of the World's Finest 1** (of 3; W Simonson & Brereton) First of a limited series, in which the Man of Steel and the Dark Knight unite to battle Silver Banshee and the ancient entity Tullus. 48pg . $4.95

☐ **Lobo 3** (Grant & Semieks + Dell) Lobo is close to apprehending the notorious accountant, Qigly, and the Dead Boys. $1.75

☐ **Robin 4** (Dixon & Grummet + Kryssing) Robin attempts to counter-balance crime-fighting with a normal-joe life. $1.50

☐ **Scarab 4** (of 8; Vertigo; J Smith & Eaton + Barreiro) Scarab faces the Rathorach, a mysterious being from Balkan mythology, who is responsible for the deaths of many men in North Carolina. . . . $1.95

☐ **Scarlett 14** (Joyner, K Wilson & Pike + Fern) Final issue. Scarlett features in her last battle with vampiric forces. $1.75

☐ **Static 9** (Milestone; Washington & Leon + Quijano) Virgil goes in search of some cool shoes and runs into Virus, a villain with a disturbing past. $1.50

DEFIANT

☐ **Dark Dominion 3** (Wein & Phillips + Leialoha) Only Michael Alexander — who can move through the Quantum Substratum as the heroic character Glimmer — can save New York from the horrors which lurk beneath Grand Central Station. $2.50

☐ **Good Guys 2** (Shooter + Childress & Grey) Seven young superheroes battle against the Plasm-born monster, The Mulchmorg. **Warriors of Plasm**'s Glory guest stars $3.50

☐ **Warriors of Plasm 5** (Shooter & Lapham + Witherby) Prudence, from Chris Claremont's forthcoming **Prudence & Caution** series, makes a guest appearance as the Warriors fight against the Demons of Darkedge. $2.50

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☐ **Palooka-Ville 4** (Seth) Seth begins an obsessive search for a '40s cartoonist. 24pg b&w . $2.95

☐ **Yummy Fur 32** (Brown) Adapted from the Book of Matthew, recounting the meeting between Jesus and the Pharisees. 24pg b&w $2.95

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☐ **Haunt of Fear 6** (anthology) Featuring *A Strange Undertaking* (Ingels); *Pinned you down* (Wood); *A Grave Gag* (Kamen) and *Cheese, That's Horrible* (Davis). ... $2.00

☐ **Weird Science-Fantasy 6** (anthology) Featuring *The Inferiors* (Wood); *Lost in Space* (Williamson); *Round Trip* (Jack Kamen) and *Adam Link* (Orlando). $2.00

☐ **Crime Suspenstories 6** Featuring *A Toast... to Death* (Craig) *Out of My Mind* (Kamen); *The Switch* (Roussos) and *Jury Duty* (Ingels). $2.00

ECLIPSE COMICS

☐ **Deadbeats 5** (Claypool/Eclipse; Howell & Villagran) The teenagers of Mystic Grove are drawn into the web of horror when they confront the vampire menace. b&w . $2.95

☐ **Elvira 8** (Claypool/Eclipse; Dini + Howell & Webb + Hernandez + Leialoha) Adapted from the US TV host's series. b&w $2.95

☐ **Parts Unknown II: The Next Invasion 2** (Smith & Gorby) In a sequel to the first **Parts Unknown** series, the aliens return for a global takover. b&w $2.95

☐ **Soul Searchers and Co 5** (David & Conner + Mooney) *Fear City, Part 14.* The Searchers are recruited to investigate the strange events at Mystic Grove. b&w $2.95

ETERNITY COMICS

☐ **Ninja High School 43** (Dunn) Dog Supreme has his day in court. b&w $2.50

☐ **Robotech: Invid War Aftermath 2** (Lewis + Lamphear) Sera is captured by the mixed-race forces of Zentraedi while on a quest to find the remains of her dead brother. b&w $2.50

☐ **Robotech: Return to Macross 10** (Spangler & McKinney) Breetai is stalked by the shape-shifting Khyron as he searches for any other signs of life on the abandoned flagship. b&w $2.50

☐ **Robotech II: The Sentinels Book III 5** (Mason & Waltrip) Spider creatures emerge from the core of Praxis to menace Rick and his cohorts. b&w $2.50

☐ **Zillion 6** (Kanalz & Fong) Adaptation of the fourth Streamline Pictures release. Noza's commando team go into battle against the White Knights. b&w $2.50

FANTAGRAPHICS

NEW ☐ **The Big Wheels** (Chaffee) A one-shot Will Eisner-like tale of the underbelly of humanity, as seen through the eyes of a variety of characters. Mature readers. b&w 56pg $6.95

NEW ☐ **Boulevard of Broken Dreams 1** (anthology) First of a limited series reprinting work originally published in **Raw** and **The Mishkin File**. Mature readers. b&w $3.95

☐ **Cereal Killings 5** (Sturm) Introducing two new characters, Archie the Clown and Frank the Pig. Mature readers. b&w $2.50

NEW ☐ **Guttersnipe 1** (Head) First of a limited series revolving around the adventures of a disembodied head. Mature readers. Magazine. b&w .. $3.50

NEW ☐ **I Like Comics 1** (Bagge & Harvilics) First edition of a fanzine devoted to so-called aesthetically pleasing independent comics. Mature readers. b&w $5.00

NEW ☐ **Jim Volume 2 #1** (Woodring) First of a limited series featuring Woodring's bizarre assortment of characters. Mature readers. b&w $2.95

☐ **Palestine 5** (Sacco) Autobiographical account of Sacco's time on the Palestine and Israeli borders. Mature readers. b&w$2.95

☐ **Whotnot 2** (Eaton) The second chapter of *Americaville*, plus a couple of vignettes. Mature readers. b&w $2.50

☐ **Zoot 5** (anthology) Featuring the second issue of **Zoot's** magazine within a magazine, *Ignatz*. Mature readers. b&w $2.50

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IMAGE COMICS

☐ **Code Name: Stryke Force 1** (Silvestri & Peterson + Chiodo) First edition, now solicited without enhanced cover effects. .. $1.95

NEW ☐ **Freak Force 1** (Larsen + Giffen & Bridges + Story) First of an ongoing series based on Chicago's former super-cops (as established in **Savage Dragon**). $1.95

☐ **Phantom Force 2** (of 2; Kirby + various) Originally planned as an ongoing series, this now two-part story concludes with the Phantom Force fighting Darkfire and the Star Slavers for the Earth. $1.95

☐ **Prophet 4** (Liefeld & Panosian) A battle with Bloodstrike leads to Prophet running into a woman who is, somehow, connected to him in another time. $1.95

☐ **Savage Dragon 7** (Larsen) The Dragon comes face to face with The Overlord in all-out battle. .. $1.95

☐ **Shadowhawk III 2** (of 4; Valentino & Wolf) Shadowhawk's

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origin continues to unfold; meanwhile, the menace of Dedline promises to keep the Regulators busy. $2.50

☐ **Spawn 19** (McFarlane) McFarlane returns to the title with the introduction of the amibivalent new hero, The Freak. $1.95

NEW ☐ **Stormwatch Yearbook 1** (Marz & Turner) First of an annual series. Stormwatch are called to the moon after a mysterious artifact is discovered. The team then finds itself transported to another dimension populated by dashing heroes and beastly villains. $3.50

☐ **Supreme 9** (Liefeld + Murray & Stephenson + Ivy) Supreme is reunited with his old sidekick, Kid Supreme, to do battle with his oldest foe, Grizlock. $1.95

☐ **Team Youngblood 4** (Liefeld + Stephenson & Yaep + Rapmund) Psi-Fire wreaks havoc in Washington DC, with not a finger lifted by the Team. $1.95

☐ **Vanguard 3** (Larsen + Carlson & Madureira) Vanguard engages with Savage Dragon. $1.95

☐ **WildC.A.T.S. 7** (Lee + Choi & Williams) *Killer Instinct, Part 3* (of 4). Misery, Warblade and Ripclaw meet in an explosive slugfest. . . $1.95

INNOVATION

☐ **Dark Shadows: Book 3 #3** (Rockwell & Echevarria) Professor Woodard is transformed into a vampire by Barnabas Collins. $2.50

☐ **Lost In Space: Project Robinson 2** (of 2; Hunt + Deodato Jr & Ross + Stockwell) Maureen attempts to cure Don, their only hope in completing a complex docking proceedure. $2.50

☐ **Lost in Space: Voyage to the Bottom of the Soul 7** (Mumy & Dutkiewicz) Judy goes into labour as Will and Smith come to terms with the irradiated land. . . . $2.50

☐ **Lucifer's Hammer 5** (Collins & Vilela) Continuing series derived from Niven and Pournelle's science fiction novel. $2.50

☐ **Mack Bolan: The Executioner 6** (Pendelton & Florea) Mack Bolan finds himself hunted by the law and the by the law*less*. $2.50

☐ **Queen of the Damned 11** (Perozich & Cariello) Lestat and Akasha run up against the entire coven of vampires. $2.50

☐ **Zamindar 2** (of 4; various) Based on the forthcoming science fiction movie of the same title. . . . $2.95

KITCHEN SINK

☐ **Captain Stern: Running out of Time 2** (Wrightson) Stern and cohorts use the time portal to locate Filmore Coffer's stolen belongings. 48pg $4.95

NEW ☐ **Charles Burns Sketchbook** (Burns) Unpublished work from one of comics' more idiosyncratic creators. b&w 64pg $6.95

NEW ☐ **The Crow Collected** (O'Barr) One-shot collected reprint of the Caliber Press series. pc 224pg $15.95

NEW ☐ **Madman: The Oddity Odyssey** (tpbk; Allred) Collected reprint of the first three stories. pc 144pg $12.95

NEW ☐ **Druuna: Morbus Gravis 1** (hdbk; Serpieri) First edition of the serialisation of the Catalan book. 64pg . . $14.95

NEW ☐ **Frazetta Pillow Talk** (Frazetta) One-shot focused on Frazetta's own selection of previously unpublished work. Mature readers. 48pg . . . $13.95

☐ **From Hell 3** (Moore & Campbell) The accounts of the Whitechapel Murders continue, with the Royal Family and even Queen Victoria as possible suspects. b&w 80pg $4.95

☐ **Melting Pot 2** (Eastman & Talbot + Bisley) Tyler is infected by an incurable disease, and it seems that the beautiful Sade may be responsible. $2.95

NEW ☐ **Messozoic** (Potter) One-shot evolutionary story featuring a hoard of cute dinosaurs. b&w $2.50

☐ **The Spirit 10: The Origin Years** (Eisner) Reprinting pre-WWII Spirit stories. b&w $2.95

NEW ☐ **Visions of Arzach** (hdbk; Moebius & various) One-shot featuring virtuoso creators' interpretations of Jean Giraud's fantastic beast. Mature readers. 64pg $14.95

LIGHTNING

☐ **Bloodfire 7** (Lawrence & Parr + Weed + Zyskowski) Bloodfire and Stealth are sent to the Whitehouse to rescue the President from terrorists. $2.95

☐ **Judgement Day 4** (Pence & Parr + weed + Zyskowski) Rift teleports the team to Hell, where (somewhat unsurprisingly) they fight for their very souls. $2.95

☐ **Perg 3** (Barras & Weed + Zyskowski) Alli goes to Chicago in search of the living myth. . . $2.95

MAJESTIC

NEW ☐ **S.T.A.T 1** (Schiller & Hester + Sellers) First of a limited series about a government-sponsored covert action team. When news arrives that the super-powered Legacy may be keeping a prisoner on his island, some members of the team are unwilling to confront this one-time saviour of the planet. Story to be continued in **Legacy 2**. $2.25

☐ **Legacy 2** (Schiller & Morgan + Mounts) Continued from **S.T.A.T. 1**. Legacy and his allies confront the government S.T.A.T team. . $2.25

MALIBU

NEW ☐ **Breakthru 1** (Ultraverse; Jones & Perez & Lowe) First of a series establishing the background to Ultraverse characters. $2.50

☐ **Dead Clown 3** (of 3; Ulm & Thomas + Rae) Swallow is transformed into the mighty Deathbird and determines to take out the clown at all costs. . $2.50

☐ **Dinosaurs for Hire 11** (Genesis/Malibu; Mason & Kirk + McCorkindale) Introducing Manhattan Bob and his side-kick, Borough Boy. $2.50

☐ **Exiles 4** (Ultraverse; Gerber & Phipps + Pearson) *Breakthru* crossover. Amber Hunt is on the rampage, surely spelling the end of the road for the Exiles. . . . $1.95

☐ **Ex-Mutants 14** (Genesis/Malibu; Marshall & Rolo + Rae) Dillon battles Gravestone over who will

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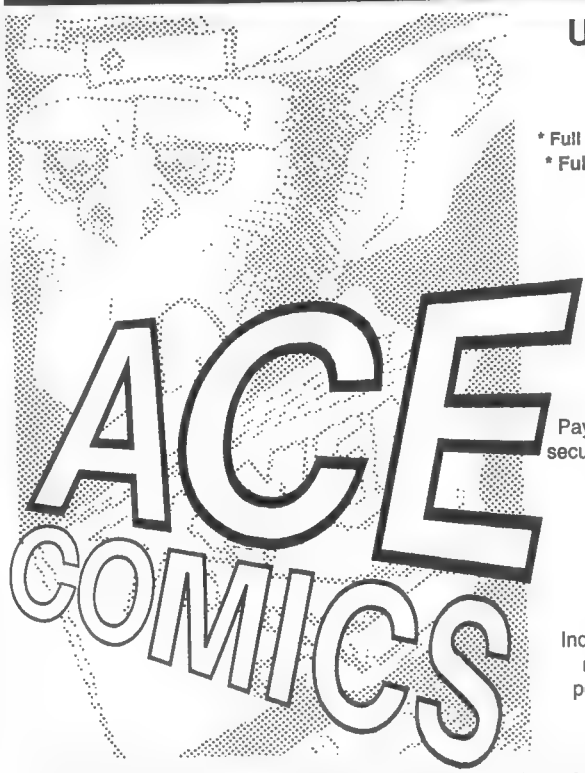

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lead the Ex-Mutants. $2.25

☐ **The Ferret 8** (Genesis/Malibu; Jones & Peppers) Posse takes over a bank — and Ferret is key to his capture. $2.25

☐ **Firearm 4** (Ultraverse; Robinson & Hamner + Lowe) Firearm faces the ultra-powered Sportsmen in the course of his quest to free his girlfriend, Clare. $1.95

☐ **Freex 6** (Ultraverse; Jones & Herrera + Christian) *Breakthru* crossover. The Amber Hunt effect is taking its toll on the Freex. Mangle returns after his meeting with Night Man. $1.95

☐ **Gravestone 6** (Genesis/Malibu; Marshal & Peppers) Jug, the vampire clown, has stayed ahead of Gravestone for over 100 years. But not any more. $2.25

☐ **Hardcase 6** (Ultraverse; Hudnall & Benefiel + Christian) *Breakthru* crossover. The Solution join the fray as they and Hardcase explore the meaning of Amber Hunt's bizarre powers. $1.95

☐ **Mantra 6** (Ultraverse; Barr & Dodson + Vey) *Breakthru* crossover. Agents of Aladdin reveal the true nature of the artefact to Eden Blake. $1.95

☐ **The Night Man 3** (Ultraverse; Englehart & Ha) *Breakthru* crossover. The Night Man must choose who to side with in an all-out battle with JD Hunt's ultrahumans, even if it must mean siding with a killer. $1.95

☐ **Prime 7** (Ultraverse; Jones + Strazewski & Breyfogle) *Breakthru* crossover. Prime decides to journey to the moon to retrieve a valuable artefact, even though he is unable to determine whether or not he will survive the trip through space $1.95

☐ **Protectors 16** (Genesis/Malibu; Jones & Hall) Chalice leads the team into one of its fiercest battles ever against a government holding the team responsible for the deaths of thousands during the Genesis Saga. $2.25

☐ **Prototype 5** (Mason + Stazewski & Robinson + Pascoe) *Breakthru* crossover. The Strangers make a guest appearance in a fight with JD Hunt, in this two-part story within the crossover. $1.95

☐ **Sludge 3** (Gerber & Lopresti + Martin) Villain Bloodstorm has seriously damaged Sludge and now, more dead than alive, the muck monster has to face the River Men. $1.95

☐ **Solitaire 2** (Ultraverse; Jones & Johnson + Kaalberg) *Breakthru* crossover. Moon Man and his obsessed followers are holding hostages in a theme park — and only Solitaire can bring about their release. $1.95

☐ **The Solution 4** (Ultraverse; Hudnall & Robertson + Miller) *Breakthru* crossover. Hardcase and the Solution team up, hot on the heels of Amber Hunt. $1.95

☐ **Star Trek: Deep Space Nine 5** (Barr & Purcell + Pallot) Aliens appear on the ship and claim it as their own. $2.50

☐ **The Strangers 7** (Ultraverse; Englehart & Hoberg + Simons) *Breakthru* crossover. The Strangers journey to the moon in their stolen rocket with Prototype in hot pursuit. $1.95

MARVEL COMICS

SHIPPING DECEMBER 7ND

☐ **Biker Mice From Mars 4** (Tyler & Tyler + Fields) The evil Plutarkians plan to raid the planet's fossil fuels, but the mice find that nature itself offers them a helping hand. $1.50

☐ **Cable 8** (Nicieza & Weisenfeld) The mystery of the true identities of Cable and Stryfe is finally solved. Cyclops and Jean Grey make guest appearances. $2.00

☐ **Captain America 424** (Gruenwald & Levins + Bulanadi) Cap moves into his new headquarters. His girlfriend, Diamondback, admits that she is a murderer. $1.25

NEW ☐ **Captain Marvel: Speaking Without Concern** (McDuffie + Coye & Bright + Jenson) One-shot looking at discrimination — sex, race and sexual orientation — through the (black and female) eyes of the Avenger. 48pg $3.95

☐ **Daredevil 325** (Chichester & McDaniel + Collazo) *Fall from Grace: Part 7* (of 7). Daredevil undergoes a bizarre transformation in the final part of the hero's revamping. 48pg $2.50

☐ **Darkhawk 36** (Fingeroth & Smith + Akin) Darkhawk's father returns and Venom guest stars in an issue set to change the future direction of the title. $1.25

☐ **Groo the Wanderer 109** (Marvel/Epic; Aragones + Evanier) Groo's election to public office has dire consequences when he repeatedly bungles it. $2.25

☐ **Hawkeye 2** (of 4; Dixon & Kolins + Dzon) Hawkeye teams up with a genetically-altered creature to battle the perpetrators of the animals' mutation. $1.75

☐ **Marvel Comics 147** (anthology) Featuring: *Vengeance* (Cooper & Jones + Harper); *American Eagle* (Figueroa & Wilson); *Black Panther* (DeFries & Hillsman) along with *Captain Universe* (Slott & Wylie + LaRosa). $1.50

☐ **Marvel Masterworks 27: The Avengers.** Reprinting **Avengers** 21-30 (Lee & Heck). $34.95

☐ **Monster Menace 3** (of 4; Lee & Kirby & Ditko) Reprinting classic, '50s pre-superhero Marvel monster stories. $1.25

☐ **Namor 47** (Herdling & Isherwood + Albrecht) *Starblast, Part 5* (of 12). Namor, Tiger Shark and Tamara Rahn discover the secret that the Starblasters and their newly recruited race of woman warriors share. $1.25

☐ **Nightstalkers 15** (Lovece & Wylie + Turner) DOA return to plague the 'Stalkers — and with the hi-tech super-robot, Dreadnaught — they may just have the upper hand. $1.75

☐ **Nomad 22** (Nicieza & Mays + Adams) A turning point in the life of Jack Munroe as his secrets are spilled to the world and his past becomes public knowledge. $1.75

☐ **Original Ghost Rider 20** (Isabella & Robbins + Esposito) Reprints **Ghost Rider** 12. . $1.75

☐ **Pinhead 3** (Epic/Clive Barker; Chichester & Carrasco) Pinhead travels to 18th-century France to

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investigate the strange events in a Parisian church. $2.00

☐ **Punisher Anniversary Magazine** (various) Celebrating Frank Castle's 20 years in the Marvel Universe. 48pg . . . $2.95

☐ **Ren & Stimpy 15** (Boyette + Mitchroney & Mitchroney) Derived from Nickelodeon's *Ren & Stimpy* animated TV series. $1.75

☐ **Sachs & Violens 4** (of 4; Epic; David & Perez) Concluding part of the series. The showdown with Mollock takes place in New Orleans, during *mardi gras*. $2.25

☐ **Saint Sinner 5** (Epic/Razorline; E Lee & Pace + Douglas) Saint Sinner and the Ectokid battle Sir Sigmoid's Arcadia. $1.75

☐ **Scarlet Witch 2** (of 4; Abnett & Lanning & Higgins + McKenna) Wanda versus Master Pandemonium, round two. The Avengers West Coast make their final appearance. $1.75

☐ **She-Hulk 60** (Kaminski & Olliffe) She-Hulk's final issue. Wyatt moves out and Jen's father moves in. Plus, indications of major changes in the future development of the character. $1.75

☐ **Spider-Man 2099 16** (David & Leonardi + Williamson) *Fall of the Hammer, Part 1* (of 5). Miguel O'Hara falls overboard as the TechnoGods attack the floating city of Valhalla. $1.25

☐ **Spider-Man Classics 11** (Lee & Ditko + Kirby) Reprinting **Amazing Spider-Man 10**. $1.25

NEW ☐ **Spider-Man: Mutant Agenda 0** (Grant & Kolins) The first of a series designed to contain a combination of newsstrips and comic-book stories. Includes blank pages for pasting in newsstrips. 48pg $1.25

☐ **Starblast 21** (of 4; Gruenwald & Smith + Cabrera) *Starblast, Part 4* (of 12). A group of cosmic-powered heroes take on the Shi'Ar Imperial Guard for the Starbrand. . . $1.75

☐ **Thunderstrike 5** (DeFalco & Frenz + Milgrom) Spider-Man helps Thunderstrike as S.H.I.E.L.D take on Code Blue in a battle beneath the streets of Manhattan. . . $1.25

☐ **Uncanny X-Men 309** (Lobdell & Romita Jr) Professor Xavier receives the news of Jean and Scott's forthcoming nuptials with ill-concealed rancour. $1.25

☐ **Warlock Chronicles 8** (of 8; Starlin & Raney + Williams) *Blood and Thunder, Part 11* (of 13). The heroes discover the Valkyrie's secret and now have a glimmer of hope in stopping the god-gone-mad, Thor. $2.00

☐ **Web of Spider-Man 109** (Kavanagh & Saviuk + Baskerville/Cavalieri & Tyler) Two-story issue. Part one features Spider-Man and Night Thrasher confronting a berserker Shocker; Part two is the prologue to the forthcoming Lizard story. . . $1.25

NEW ☐ **Wolverine: Blood Hungry** (David & Kieth) Reprinting Wolverine's first meeting with Cyber, originally seen in **Marvel Comics** 85-92. . . . . $6.95

SHIPPING DECEMBER 14TH

☐ **Alpha Flight 129** (Furman & Carrasco Jr + Patterson) The penultimate issue chronicles Alpha's battle with the Hardliners. . $1.75

☐ **Amazing Spider-Man 386** (Michelinie & Bagley + Emberlin) The mystery of Peter Parker's parents is revealed in this three-part story that ties in with **Spider-Man Unlimited 4**. $1.25

NEW ☐ **Avengers Log 1** (Sanderson) First of a source series, featuring hero and villain profiles. 48pg $1.95

☐ **Barbie 38** (Trusiani & Mortimer & Robbins) Barbie directs a holiday musical, but things go wrong on the eve of the show. $1.25

☐ **Curse of the Weird 3** (of 4; various) Pre-comics code Atlas and Marvel comics, featuring such creative greats as Kubert, Wolverton and Heath. $1.25

NEW ☐ **Dragon Strike 1** (Grubb & Harris) One-shot adaptation of the TSR role-playing game. $1.25

☐ **Ghost Rider 46** (Mackie & Garney + Ivy) Ghost Rider has been drastically altered as a result of his battles during the *Seige of Darkness*. $1.75

☐ **Guardians of the Galaxy 45** (Gallagher & West + Montano) The original Starhawk returns. The Beyonder/Protege skirmish comes to an abrupt ending. $1.25

☐ **Harrowers 3** (Epic/Clive Barker; Smith & Colan + Rubinstein) The twins risk the wrath of Hell to rescue a figure of historic importance$2.50

☐ **Hyperkind 6** (Epic/Razorline; Burke & Cullins + Petrecia) Hokum and Hex guest star as the Paxis battle the Vexus. $1.75

☐ **King Arthur and the Knights of Justice 3** (of 3; Lackey & Wilson + M Severin) A college football team in the court of King Arthur? Based on a animated TV series. . $1.25

☐ **Marvel X-Men Collection by Jim Lee 2** (of 3) Reprinting 96 Jim Lee/X-Men trading cards. . . $2.95

☐ **Marvel Year-in-Review 1993** (various) Satirical **Time**-style magazine looking back on events over the last 12 months in the Marvel Universe. $3.95

☐ **Marvels 2** (of 4; Busiek & A Ross) The wedding of Sue Storm and Reed Richards as seen through the eyes of photojournalist Phil Sheldon. Plus, The X-Men's conflict with the Sentinels. 48pg . . $5.95

☐ **Night Thrasher 7** (Nicieza & Saltares) Who is Bandit, and why does he want revenge on Night Thrasher? $1.75

☐ **Nova 2** (Nicieza & Marrinan + Stegbauer) Nova is back on campus and facing the threat of Tailhook, a villainess who *could* be his girlfriend. $1.75

☐ **Punisher War Zone 24** (Hama & J Buscema & Mayerick) *Suicide Run, Part 5* (of 10). The Punisher is alive, but only just. The vigilante begins to rebuild himself. . . $1.75

☐ **Quasar 55** (Gruenwald & Heebink) *Starblast, Part 6* (of 10). Quasar organises a cosmic-powered posse to track down the Star-blasters. $1.25

☐ **Ravage 2099 15** (Mills + Skinner & Miehm + Williams) *Fall of the Hammer, Part 2* (of 5). How do the Thorites react when the real thing turns up? Meanwhile, Ravage takes on the Goddess of Death. . $1.25

☐ **Savage Sword of Conan 218** (Thomas & Maroto) Swordplay and sorcery. $2.25

☐ **Secret Defenders 12** (Mars & Grindberg + Hudson) Thanos assembles a team of villains to bring him the sacred Oracle of Ancient Knowledge. $2.50

☐ **Silver Sable 21** (Wright & Butler + Eklund) Sable and the Pack do battle with the ganglanders in Beverly Hills. $1.25

☐ **Sleepwalker 32** (Budiansky & Krantz) Rescheduled. The mystery of the Mindspawn is revealed at last and Sleepwalker's origin is finally resolved. $1.25

☐ **Spider-Woman 4** (of 4; Thomas & Ellis) US Agent guests in this concluding issue of the series. Spider-Woman confronts Deathweb in the villain's own hideout. $1.75

☐ **Terrarists 4** (of 4; Epic; Mills + Skinner & Erasmus) The team have to prevent the Fraternity from colonising Mars — and ultimately, destroying Earth. $2.50

☐ **Wolverine 78** (Hama & Kubert + Farmer) Wolverine takes on Deathstryke. Logan discovers he has limitations, now that he has lost his metal backbone. $1.75

☐ **Wonder Man 29** (Jones & Randall & Joyce) Wonderman returns to show business, but finds villains and Spider-Man want in on his show. $1.25

☐ **X-Factor 99** (DeMatteis & Duursema & Milgrom) The end is nigh for the team, as the members find themselves torn between the persuasive words of a new villainess and the philosophy by which they have lived their lives. $1.25

NEW ☐ **X-Men Adventures Season II 1** (Macchio & Wildman & Albrecht) First of a new season of the Fox TV adaptation series. $1.25

SHIPPING DECEMBER 21ST

☐ **Avengers 371** (Herdling & Jones + Palmer) Half the Avengers have been kidnapped by the Uni-Mind; the rest of the team race to the rescue. $1.25

☐ **Blaze 3** (of 4; Mackie & Wagner) Blaze discovers that he has been betrayed by his wife, and heads for the Blood's stronghold to hear the the full story. $1.75

☐ **Brats Bizarre 4** (of 4; Epic; Mills + Skinner & Mighten) The Brats run home to find a cure to the virus now threatening to kill them. . . . $2.50

☐ **Conan Saga 83** (Thomas & J Buscema + Palmer) Sword and sorcery reprints. $2.25

☐ **Doom 2099 #14** (Moore & Broderick + Nyberg) *Fall of the Hammer, Part 4* (of 5). Doom confronts Loki — then he runs into the X-Men and a whole bunch of 2099 villains. $1.25

☐ **Ectokid 6** (Epic/Razorline; Makcowski & Skroce + Dvorak) Dex hooks up with James Dean and Janis Joplin to trace the father he never knew. $1.75

☐ **Excalibur 74** (Ashford & Lashly + Smith) With Professor X as his ally, Excalibur takes on the Russian Sentinel project. $1.75

☐ **Gambit 3** (of 4; Mackie & Weeks) Gambit and Rogue uncover some links with The Externals as Gambit heads for Paris. . . . $2.00

☐ **GI Joe 145** (Hama & Rosado) Ninja action with Snake Eyes, Stormshadow and the Ninja $1.25

☐ **Hellhound 3** (of 4; Epic/Clive Barker; Miller & F Hughes) The blues musician comes to grips with his role as a so-called soul-taker for the Devil. $2.25

☐ **Incredible Hulk 414** (David & Frank + Smith) *The Trojan War, Part 2* (of 4). Guest stars the Silver Surfer. The Hulk and the Pantheon head for outer space in a bid to save Atalanta. $1.25

☐ **Marvel Age 133** (anthology) Includes the concluding part of the Human Torch origin story from the **Marvels** creators, Busiek & Ross. Plus, news on the X-Men wedding and the new **War Machine** series. Covers: Andy Kubert & Gabriel **(War Machine)** Gecko. $1.00

☐ **Marvel Comics Presents 148** (anthology) Featuring: *Vengeance* (Cooper & Jones); *American Eagle* (Figueroa & Wilson); *Falcon* (M Nicieza & Lieber); *The Masters of Silence* (Kaminski & Cullen + Stanisci). $1.50

☐ **Marvel Tales 282** (Defalco & S Buscema + Baker) Reprinting **Amazing Spider-Man** 272. $1.25

☐ **Morbius 18** (Wright & Cordova + Pepoy) Morbius gets mixed up with a group of vampire worshippers. Guest stars Deathlok. . . . $1.75

☐ **Mort the Dead Teenager 3** (of 4; Hama & Hallgren) Mort Graves and his mates take their act to the East Village. $1.75

NEW ☐ **NFL Pro Action 1** (Macchio & Marrinan + Williams) First of a NFL news and features magazine, featuring a 12-page X-Men story. $2.25

☐ **Punisher 87** (Grant & Haynes + Mckenna) *Suicide Run, Part 6* (of 10). The Punisher exploits his presumed death — which here coincides with the death of another major character. $1.25

NEW ☐ **Silver Surfer vs Dracula 1** (Wolfman & Colan + Palmer) First of a reprint series, featuring **Tomb of Dracula 50**, plus two pre-comics code vampire tales. 64pg $1.75

☐ **Spider-Man 43** (Kavanagh & Jae Lee) Iron Fist guest stars in this concluding part of the crossover. Ammo undertakes Spider-Man and Iron Fist's murders. $1.75

☐ **Transformers: Generation 2 #4** (Furman & Yanigher) Grimlock takes charge and learns a tough lesson when his team is ambushed by Decepticons. $1.75

☐ **Warlock and the Infinity Watch 25** (Starlin & Medina + Almond) *Blood and Thunder, Part 12* (of 13). Warlock & co present the captured Thunder god to Odin in the hope that he will be able to cure him — but Thanos' presence has unexpected repercussions. $1.75

☐ **What If? 57** (Dixon & Purcell) What if the Punisher killed Spider-Man. $1.25

☐ **X-Men 29** (Nicieza & Andy Kubert + Ryan) Sabretooth, Revanche and Gambit sneak past an old foe to rescue the rest of the X-Men. $1.25

☐ **X-Men 2099 #5** (Moore & Lim + Kubert) *Fall of the Hammer, Part 3* (of 5). X-Men battle for their lives in New York, and while there discover the connection between Valhalla,

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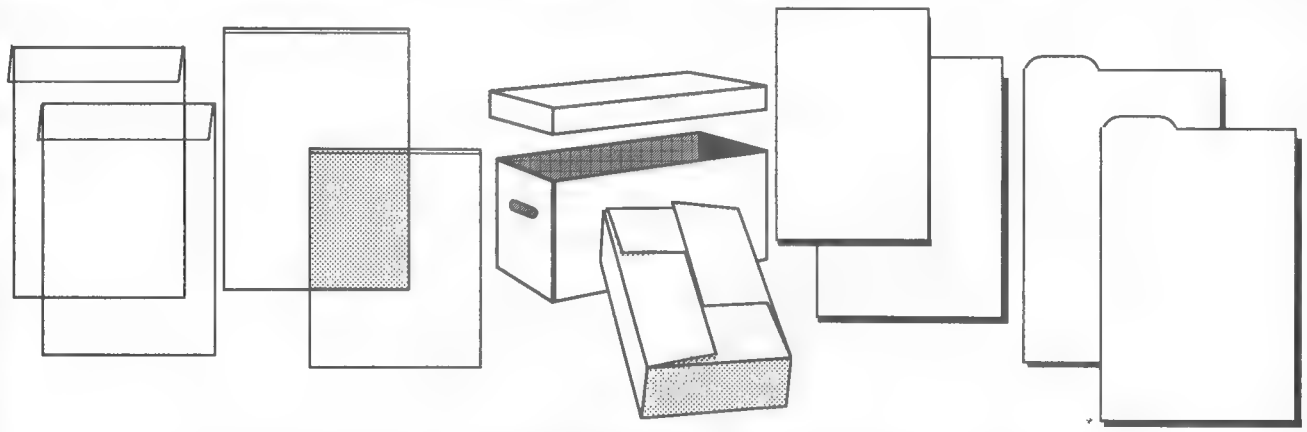

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☐ **Barbie Fashion 38** (Slate & Wilshire & Lucas) Stop press! Skipper helps Courtney gain the vital self-confidence she needs — to go carol singing. $1.25

☐ **Book of the Dead 3** (of 4; various) Reprinting Frankenstein and Man-Thing stories. . . . $1.75

☐ **Daredevil: Man without Fear 5** (of 5; Miller & Romita Jr + Williamson) Final issue, in which Daredevil dons the costume, assumes the position and becomes The Man Without Fear. . . . $2.95

☐ **Deathlok 32** (Wright & Kobasic + Adams) Deathlok circa 1993 must battle Luther Manning, his own alter-ego and an equally otherworldly Demolisher. $1.75

☐ **Dr Strange 62** (Quinn & Rubi + Harper) The enigmatic creature known only as Strange clashes with Doctor Doom. Morbius searches for the real Dr Strange. $1.75

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☐ **Ghost Rider/Blaze: Spirits of Vengeance 19** (Quinn & Martinez + LaRosa) Blaze resolves his own personal tragedy while dealing with Vampire King Varnae. $1.75

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☐ **New Warriors 44** (Nicieza & Robertson + Mahlstedt) Namorita is back — revamped with a strongly developed vicious trait. . . . $1.25

☐ **Punisher 2099 #13** (Mills + Skinner & Morgan + Palmiotti) *Fall of the Hammer, Part 5* (of 5). Jake Gallows and Spider-Man team up to save Valhalla. $1.25

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☐ **Spider-Man Unlimited 4** (DeFalco & Lim + Sanders III) Spider-Man reveals his identity to the entire world, with devastating repercussions. $3.95

☐ **William Shatner's Tekworld 18** (Marvel/Epic; Goulart & Suchy + Stanisci) The conclusion to the **Teklords** adaptation as Cardigan discovers the reasons for the zombie plague. $1.75

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NEW ☐ **Venom: The Enemy Within 1** (of 3; Jones + McLeod) First of a limited series. Venom tangles with Morbius and the Demogoblin as demons take over San Francisco. $2.95

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☐ **X-Men Classic 92** (Claremont & Romita Jr + Green) Reprint. Cover artwork by Sears. $1.25

MARVEL UK

SHIPPING DECEMBER 7th

☐ **Die-Cut 4** (of 4; Dakin & Custodio) The mutated X-Beast becomes Die-Cut's target as he returns to Earth to confront the mysterious Overlord. $1.75

☐ **Gun Runner 5** (of 6; Gene Pool; Abnett & Lanning + Williams) Gun Runner is reunited with the remainder of his crew. $1.75

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☐ **Alan Davis's The ClanDestine Preview** (Davis) Featuring a retrospective of Davis's career, including previously unpublished work and an interview. . . . $1.50

NEW ☐ **Death's Head II: The Wild Hunt** (tpbk; Abnett & Sharp) Collecting **Deaths' Head II Vol 1** 1-4. 96pg $12.95

NEW ☐ **Death's Head II/ Killpower: Battletide III 1** (of 4; Abnett + Lanning & Senior + Stokes) First of a third series, in which all heroes unite in a bid to destroy Battletide. $1.95

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☐ **Death's Head II 15** (Abnett & Larroca + Scott) Death's Head and Pilgrim lock horns with Alchemist, creator of Golem Programme.$1.95

☐ **Death Metal 2** (of 4; Furman & Royle + Riggs) Death Metal takes on Alpha Flight in a fight to the death. $1.95

☐ **Death Wreck 2** (of 4; Houston & Johnson + Riggs) The time-travelling Death Wreck finds himself made enforcer for the mob. $1.95

☐ **Genetix 5** (of 6; Marks + Lanning & Gascoine + Riggs) Genetix face Tektos and the villainous Mrs Mullarkey. The team's true origins are revealed. $1.75

☐ **Immortalis 4** (of 4; Frontier; Vince & Buckingham) Resolicited. Concluding issue. $1.95

☐ **Plasmer 4** (of 4; Dakin & Ferry + Hardy) The series concludes with Captain Britain, Silver Surfer and the Black Knight aiding Plasmer in halting the cosmic-powered robot's bid to destroy London. $1.95

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NEW ☐ **The Strange and Bizarre Origin of Herbert West 1** (Thomas & Norman) One-shot explaining the true origins of the inventor of the re-animator serum. $2.95

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☐ **TMNT/Flaming Carrot: Land of Green Fire 2** (of 4; Burden & Lawson + Woodring) The Turtles and the Carrot trudge through Amazon rain forest in a search for an explanation to the mysterious flame creatures. $2.75

☐ **Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles Volume 2 #2** (Lawson & Minor) The Turtles begin to get on each other's nerves, and two of them are forced to move out. $2.75

☐ **Xenotech 3** (Dooney & Jones) Harper Bizarre helps the team to save Chunk from an almost certain death in the vortex. $2.75

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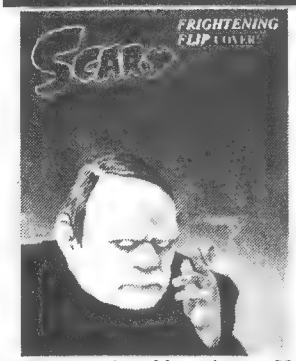

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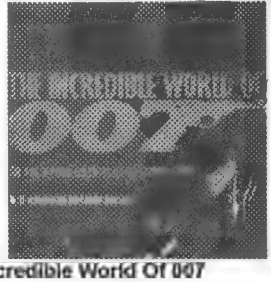

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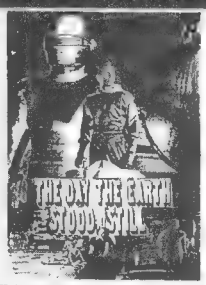

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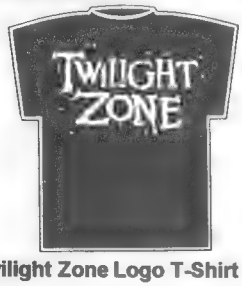

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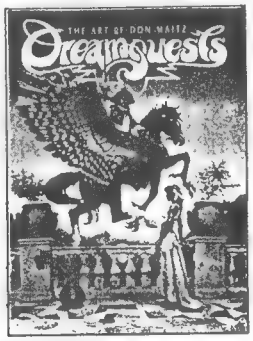

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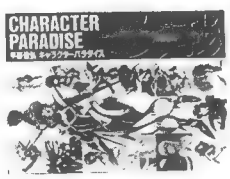

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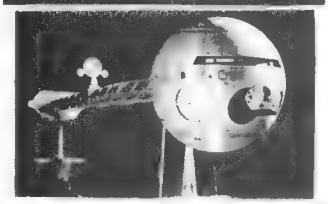

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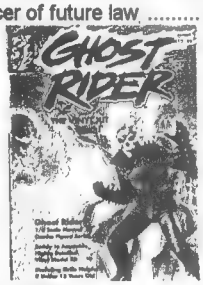

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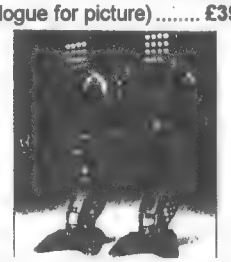

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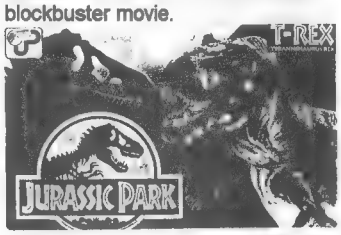

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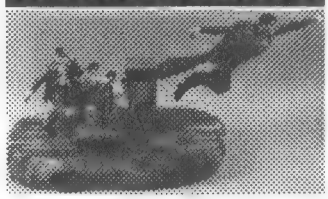

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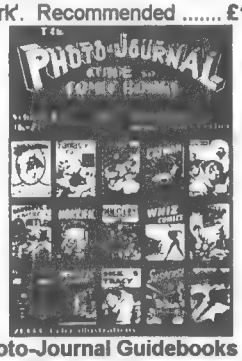

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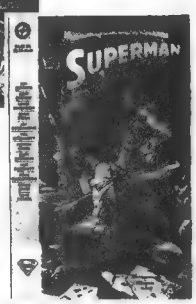

GUIDE TO ABBREVIATIONS

gn ..... Graphic Novel
tpb ..... Trade Paperback
h/c ..... Hardcover
Ltd. ..... Limited Edition
s/c ..... Softcover
p/f ..... Prestige Format
s/n ..... Signed & Numbered

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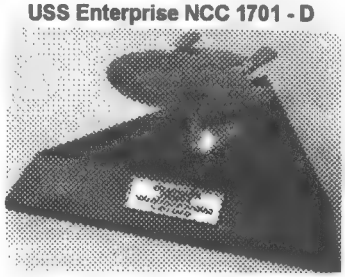

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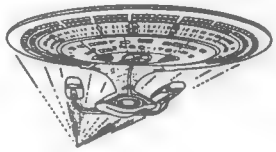

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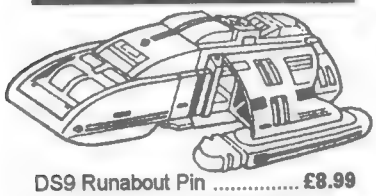

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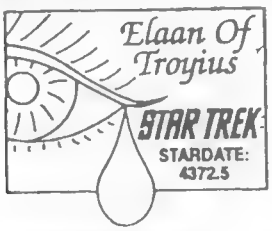

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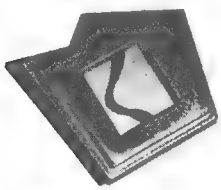

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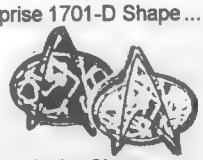
Hologram Earrings

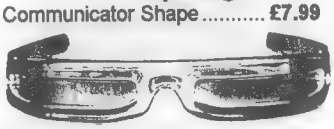
Light reflects off the finely etched surface to produce an amazing & colourful effect.

Enterprise 1701 Shape £7.99

Enterprise 1701-D Shape £7.99



Communicator Shape £7.99



Geordi Space Visor - produces a dazzling multi-colour effect when worn £3.99

HOLOGRAMS

Excellent holograms featuring the USS Enterprise from both Classic & Next Generation series.

NCC 1701 ..... £17.95
NCC 1701 - D £17.95

POSTERS & POSTCARDS

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DS9 Crew Hologram Postc'd £3.99
DS9 Cardassian Ship Hologram Postcard £3.99
DS9 Station Hologram Postcard £3.99
DS9 Quark Hologram Postcard.. ..... £3.99
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DS9 Crew 2 ..... £2.50
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DS9 Sisko £2.50
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Riker £1.95

Data £1.95
Troi £1.95
Worf £1.95
Dr. Crusher £1.95

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Star Trek:Wrath Of Khan £4.95
Star Trek III £4.95
Start Trek IV £4.95
Star Trek V £4.95
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6ft Enterprise Poster £6.95
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DEEP SPACE NINE . MUGS . PLATES . NOVELS . POSTERS . NOVELTIES

NOVELTY ITEMS

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This superb collectors presentation features a simulated gold Enterprise 1701 set against a black marble-finished backdrop with raised gold lettering and the Star Trek logo **£79.95**

Enterprise Voice/L ight Figurine
Finely detailed figurine of the original Enterprise features lights and a sound chip carrying the famous opening words by William Shatner accompanied by the opening theme music **£114.95**

MODEL KITS

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Special Edition Enterprise with Lights and Sound **£22.95**
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Three Ship Set:Enterprise, Klingon Cruiser, Bird of Prey **£7.95**
Enterprise (original) **£14.95**
3 Piece Enterprise Kit:Original, Movie & Next generation **£9.95**

MODEL KITS

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Next Generation Enterprise NCC-1701-D **£9.95**
Adversary Set: Ferengi Marauder, Klingon Cruiser & Romulan Warbird. Great detail **£14.95**
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Troi Vinyl Kit **NEW** **£44.99**
Data Vinyl Kit **£39.95**
Worf Vinyl Kit **£39.95**

Jean Luc Picard **£39.95**
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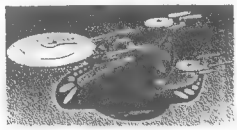
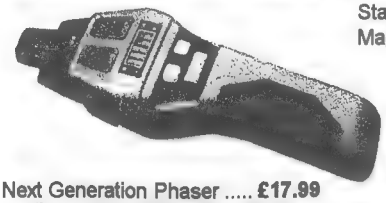


Classic Trek:25th Anniversary Chrome USS Enterprise evolution set. From Classic to Next Generation each of the three Enterprise kits are coated in 'silver' and make great looking collectors pieces **£22.99**

TOYS



Next Generation Phaser **£17.99**

Next Generation Personal Communicator **£8.99**
Next Generation Tricorder **NEW!** **£19.99**

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Data **£8.99**
Worf **£8.99**
Geordi **£8.99**
Borg **£8.99**
Romulan **£8.99**
Klingon **£8.99**
Ferengi **£8.99**
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Next Generation Key Chain Viewer - features 24 images of crew and ships **£6.95**
Next Generation Aliens Key Chain Viewer - features 24 different aliens from Next Generation. Can you name them all? **£6.95**

USS Enterprise - 17" long with lights & sound effects **£29.95**
Next Generation Shuttle Goddard **£28.95**

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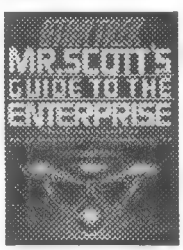
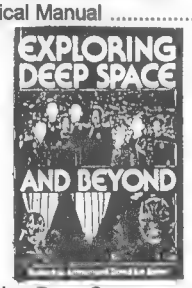
UK Official Star Trek Fan Club Mag **£2.25**
Next Gen:Captains Logs (Season 6) **£11.95**

Nitpickers Guide To Next Generation: Bloopers etc. .. **£11.95**
Captains Logs - The Complete Trek Voyages **£8.95**

The History Of Trek: Trek Classic **£8.95**



Mr. Scott's Guide To The Enterprise **£7.99**
Star Trek Chronology: History Of The Future **£9.99**
Star Trek: Next Generation Companion **£9.95**
Star Trek:Next Generation Technical Manual **£12.99**



Exploring Deep Space And Beyond **£9.99**

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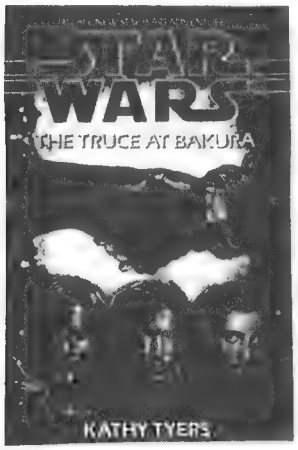
The Last Command - Final part of Timothy Zahn's epic Star Wars trilogy (paperback) **£4.99**



Truce At Bakura - New Star Wars novel. Set just after Return Of The Jedi, the story features all the main characters in a battle against a terrifying alien menace - highly recommended (HC) . **£14.99**

NOVELTY ITEMS

Holographic Stationery Set ... **£6.99**
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Superb quality recordings of the Star Wars & Empire Strikes Back radio series.

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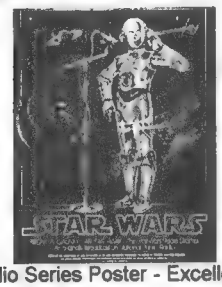
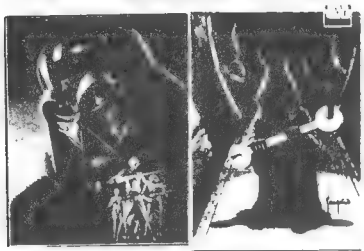


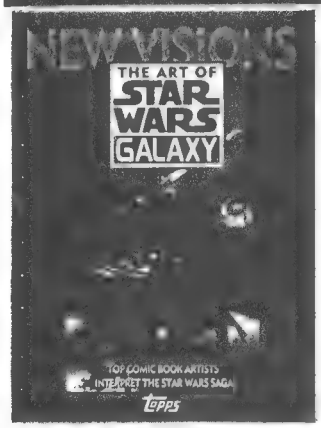
Radio Series Poster - Excellent collectors item **£14.99**

T-SHIRTS

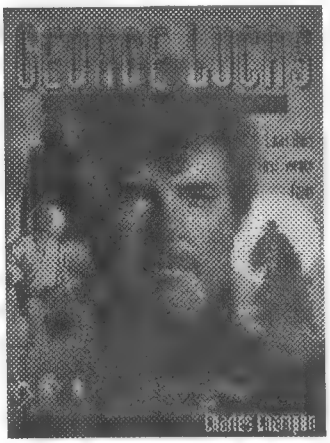


Star Wars Galaxy:Vader **£14.99**
Star Wars Galaxy:
Jawa with Spanner **£14.99**

BOOKS & MAGAZINES



New Visions:The Art Of Star Wars Galaxy - Star Wars creator, George Lucas, introduces this large format trade paperback collecting over 70 full colour images from Topps' Star Wars Galaxy trading card set. Each image is lavishly reprinted in full colour on deluxe UV-laminated stock. An added bonus is an advance sneak preview of the next Star Wars project from Topps. Full painted cover by Ken Steacy with an embossed, foil enhanced logo. Recommended **£19.99**



George Lucas:Creative Impulse -Excellent book covering the first 20 years of Lucasfilm **£19.99**
Lucasfilm Fan Club Magazine #21 ..... **£2.95**
Action Figure News & Toy Review - Star Wars Special - All the latest values on Star Wars toys and collectibles **£5.99**
Star Wars Technical Journal #1 (Tatooine) - First in a three issue series from Starlog Press. This issue covers everything you ever wanted to know about Tatooine and more **£9.95**

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POSTCARDS & PORTFOLIOS

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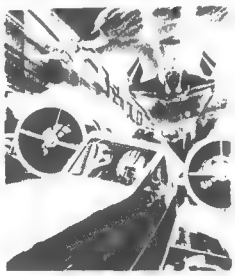
X-Wing Fighter **£1.95**
TESB:'Rhett & Scarlet' **£1.95**



Oversized Postcards Pack - five different full-colour postcards each measuring 8" x 10". Includes images from an early US Star Wars one-sheet, three concept/ production paintings and an early Empire campaign painting .. £19.99
Star Wars Art Portfolio - Contains six different 11" x 14" full colour plates, including one that was reproduced as a Star Wars Galaxy trading card image .. **£14.99**

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Yoda (vinyl) **£54.95**

Snowspeeder **£8.95**
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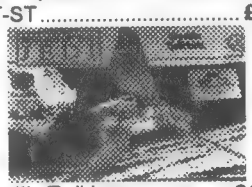

Shuttle Tydirium **£18.95**
Speeder Bike **£8.95**
X-Wing Fighter **£12.95**

Millenium Falcon - Fantastic detail on this 18" kit **£18.95**
Rebel Base Diorama **£12.95**
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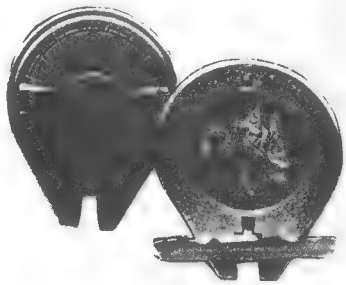

Superb limited edition collectors watches featuring high quality engraving, genuine leather strap and numbered certificate of authenticity - definitely the time piece for retiring Star Wars fans!

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Collectors Watch **£49.95**
Darth Vader
□Collectors Watch **£49.95**
Battle Of The Force
Collectors Watch **£49.95**

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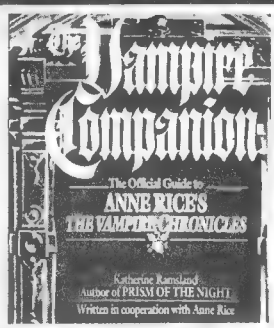
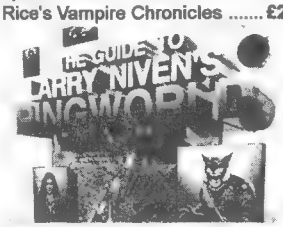


Vampire Companion
The Official Guide To Anne Rice's The Vampire Chronicles
Offers an insightful exploration, appreciation and interpretation of all the characters, events, names, places, symbols and themes found in Anne Rice's Vampire Chronicles £22.99



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"Never has any book so richly captured the technological feats, the compelling narrative, and the frame-by-frame making of any action adventure." Features over 1,000 photos, storyboards, costume and set designs, location shots plus interviews with Stallone & Snipes and the complete screenplay with deleted scenes. Highly recommended £19.95

Odyssey At 25: A 2001 Companion
Author Scott Nance analyses the impact of 2001 and its sequel on the science fiction film and the movies in general. Interviews with the stars of both films, a look at Arthur C. Clarke's series of novels based on the premise, the lost ending of the film and coverage of the Marvel Comics series and Jack Kirby interview £9.95

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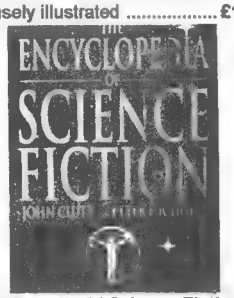

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The long awaited, massively expanded new edition of an indispensable reference work. With more than 4,300 entries and 1.3 million words, this single volume is the most comprehensive A - Z ever assembled on science fiction. Essential for the serious SF fan £74.95

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Stocks are limited in many cases so please call to check availability.

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Using original Revenge Of The Jedi artwork this special poster features the correct title embossed in gold foil lettering £27.95

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Axe Murderer £8.95
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Malice £8.95
Baraka £8.95
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The Future £8.95
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CINEMA POSTERS

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Huckleberry Finn £8.95
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Golden City £19.95

Predator Vs. Magnus Platinum £19.95

Robocop Vs. Terminator Platinum £14.95

Aliens Predator:Deadliest Of The Species, signed/numbered . £10.95

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TOP PRICES PAID FOR THE RIGHT COLLECTIONS

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Our exclusive transatlantic link - up with one of the foremost comic book dealers in America means that Armadillo can offer you this tremendous selection of Golden and Silver Age titles, normally only available to U.S. collectors.

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Please allow 28 days for delivery, although most orders will be filled within 14 days.

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NM - Near Mint VF - Very Fine F - Fine
VG - Very Good G - Good FA - Fair

HARLEY YEE COMIC BOOK LIST

DC

Action

43 VG- £95
43 F+ WRITING IN LOGO £98
82 G+ £33
83 VG+ £78
85 VF/NM £224
87 VG+ £40
89 VG+ PC OUT FC £77
100 F CHIP OUT FC £115
119 VG- £49
129 FA- £14
150 VF/NM £182
181 VG+ £52
187 VG £40
189 G/VG £33
198 VG £43
199 VG £43
201 VG £43
214 VG/F £46
217 VG- £26
224 F+ £44
228 F+ £46
231 F/VF £49
232 F/VF £49
242 VG+ £180
242 VG- NOC £86
242 FA- £35
250 VG/F £25
251 VG/F £28
261 VG/F £19
263 FA+ £5
264 G+ £4
267 VG- PIECE OUT BC £40
268 G+ CHUNK OUT BC £4
271 G+ £5
272 VG- £7
272 VG £10
273 FA £3
280 VG £7
282 VF £23
282 VG £10
283 VG £9
292 FA+ £2
293 G/VG £5
293 VG- £5
298 G- £3
306 VG £3
307 VF £8
310 VG £3
318 F £4
319 F/VF 2 IN TR BC £3
321 NM £9
323 VF £6
325 VG+ £3
327 F- £3
328 F/VF £4
328 VF+ £6
329 VF £6
330 F/VF £4
331 VF- £5
333 VF £8
335 F/VF £4
336 VF+ £8
337 F/VF £4
338 F+ £4
348 F/VF £5
353 VG/F £4
359 VF £4
359 VF/NM £5
363 VF+ £4
368 VG- £2
369 VF/NM £4
372 NM- £4
376 VF/NM £4
394 NM- £4
397 NM £4
398 VF/NM £4
401 VF £2
403 VF £2
403 VF+ £3
405 VF+ £3
405 VF £2
406 NM £4
407 VF £3
408 VF/NM £4
409 F+ £2
409 VF £2
410 NM- £2
411 VF+ £4
412 VF/NM £4
434 VF+ £3

ADVENTURE

44 VG+ 1/2 IN TR FC £800
44 VF SOME SPINE WEAR, 2 X 1/2 IN SPS £3630
48 VF (R) £3300
49 VG/F 1/2+1/4 IN SPS £264
61 FA/G £660
62 VG+ TOP 1/2 COVER CUT £15
66 G/VG £43
85 VF- £264
109 VG/F £100
114 F+ £126
115 VG/F £96
116 F- £96
119 VF- £138
119 F/VF £140
121 VF+ £198
122 VF- £132
125 F/VF £119
126 VF- £132
127 VG/F £80
129 VF- £98
130 VF- £126
131 VF/NM £165
134 F- £66
138 F+ £93
145 F- £66
146 VF £132
147 F- £66
153 F/VF 1 IN TR BC £126
154 NM- £165
156 F- £46
157 F- £89
158 F+ £63
161 VG/F £89
168 VG/F £46
169 F- £46
173 VF 3 SM TR BC £98180 VF £105
173 VF/NM £132
181 F/VF £62
185 VG/F £40
186 F+ 2 CHIPS BC £46
205 VG- £36
206 VG £55
215 VF CREASES BC £26
218 F+ £60
222 VF £85
225 VG/F £36
226 F+ £53
228 F/VF £53
229 VG/F £36
230 F+ £53
236 VF- £62
239 F+ £53
241 F+ £53
244 VF £86
245 F/VF £60
245 FA+ £12
246 F/VF £60
247 F £858
247 VG- £482
249 F+ £37
253 VF+ £112
254 VF+ £78
257 VG- £13.50
258 VG+ £20
259 VG+ £20
261 VF £36
261 VG/F £17
261 FA £4
262 FA+ £5
263 F- £17
263 VG £12
265 VG- £7
265 FA £5

ADVENTURE

265 VG/F 1/2 IN TR BC £16
266 VF- £26
266 F £20
267 VG/F £165
268 F £20
268 VG £13.50
268 VF £37
269 FA+ £12
270 FA+ £5
270 F+ £24
271 FA/G £11
271 VG- £24
272 VG/F £15
272 VG+ £13.50
272 VF+ £32
273 F+ £18.50
274 VG+ £7
274 VF £30
275 FA £8
275 VG+ £25
276 F- £14
276 G- £4
277 VG £6
277 G/VG £7
278 FA+ £5
278 G £8
279 VG/F £14
279 VG+ £12
279 F- £14
282 F/VF £48.50
283 VG+ £17
284 VG/F £12
284 FA+ £4
285 G+ £8
286 F/VF £28
286 VG £10
286 G- £6
287 G/VG £5
289 VF £23
289 VG+ SM PC OUT BC £6
290 VF £53
292 VG+ £9
293 FA/G £6
295 FA- £2
296 F+ £12
296 VG £6
298 F/VF £15
299 G+ £4
299 F £7
299 VG+ £6
300 G/VG £40
301 VG £18
302 FA/G £5
302 VG £11
303 F/VF £23
311 VG/F £10
312 VG+ £8
314 G/VG £5
314 VG+ £8
315 VG+ £8
320 VG+ £8
321 F £6
321 G/VG £3
325 F £6
326 F/VF £7
326 F- £5
327 F+ £8
335 VF- £10
337 VF £10

ATOM

9 VG+ £14
9 F+ £26
9 G/VG £12
13 VG+ £12
15 VG/F £11
27 VF- £12
37 NM £22
38 NM- £18

BATMAN

24 VG/F £182
30 NM- £581
46 VF £214
53 VG+ £98
54 FA- NO BC £14
60 VF £264
61 VF £284
61 G/VG £65
63 VF+ £290
64 NM- £290
66 VF £290
68 F/VF £165
68 F- £102
70 FA/P £16
70 VF- £191
71 VG+ £92
72 VF- £185
72 F £105
79 F- £95
79 VG+ £92
79 VF+ £278
79 VG NOC £63
80 VG+ £98
81 VG+ £78
82 F/VF 1/2 IN TR BC; CHIP OUT BC £112
82 VG+ 1 IN TR FC £78
83 VG £72
84 VG+ £98
85 VG+ £86
86 F- £92
87 F £98
88 VG+ £85
88 VG COUPON OUT BC £29
90 G/VG £36
90 VG/F £92
91 F/VF £105
91 F+ £93
91 VF £118
92 VG+ £78

BRAVE & THE BOLD

7 G+ £26
9 G+ £23
16 VG/F £50
18 G+ £23
22 VG+ £36
23 VG/F £60
28 VF- £1452
28 VF (R) £792
28 F/VF £1122
28 VG WRITING BC£396
29 VG+ £184
29 F- £278
29 FA £40
29 VG+ £212
30 VG/F £264
30 VG £132
30 G/VG £106
32 F £30
34 FA+ £65
36 FA+ £18
38 G- £11
38 VG £16
42 VG £20
44 VG- £20
54 VG+ £50
58 VG+ £10
58 F/VF £18
61 VF+ £40
64 VF+ £32
68 VF+ £35
68 F/VF £20
82 VF £15
82 F/VF £12
87 VF+ £13
93 F/VF £10

CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN

5 VG 1/2 IN TEAR BC £60
6 F+ £125
9 G/VG £23
16 F/VF £36
17 VG+ £20
21 F £23
22 F £18
28 VF £26
60 NM £12

DETECTIVE

17 VG 2 X 2 IN SPS £462
33 G/VG SS £2640
66 VG PC OUT FC £132
78 VG LOOSE COVER £92
95 VG SS £79
97 VG+ GREASE PENCIL MARKS FRONT COVER £92
105 NM- £297
111 VG/F £96
115 VG £89
116 VG £89
117 VG/F 1 PC TAPE SP £92
121 VG- CFO £33
125 VG PIECE OUT BC £73
127 VG+ £86

DETECTIVE

128 VG- £99
129 VG/F £105
130 VG £83
134 VG £60
139 VG £73
141 F 2 CHIPS OUT FC £85
141 VG £73
142 VG/F £95
157 VG £73
160 VG+ £89
162 VG £73
163 VG £72
166 VG- £70
167 VG £73
169 VF £198
169 VG £73
171 G/VG £79
171 FA/P £23
172 VG £73
173 VF- £138
173 VG/F £86
174 VG- £70
176 VG+ £98
201 VG- £46
202 VG/F £72
205 VG- £70
209 VG £50
210 VG+ £53
212 VG £52
212 VG £50
214 F/VF £52
216 G/VG £38
217 VG £50
219 VG/F £53
220 VG £46
221 G- £19
222 F £72
223 VG/F £53
228 VG/F 1/2 IN SPS £72
230 F- £62
233 VG 1 IN TR BC £145
235 G £33
236 FA- £10
236 VG £35
238 F- £60
240 VG- £30
246 VF £88
254 VG/F £40
259 F- £47
260 FA/G £12
270 VG £20
272 F/VF £40
275 G/VG £12
277 VF £48
277 G/VG [illegible]
278 VG/F £23
278 VG- £14
279 F- [illegible]
280 VG/F £23
282 G/VG [illegible]
283 VG/F £18
288 VG- 1 IN TR 1 PG £10
294 VG+ £16
296 F- £18
297 VG £13
301 VG £10
328 VF+ £43
329 VF+ £23
331 VF/NM £16
360 VF/NM £18
407 VF £10
EIGHTY PG GIANT 10 F/VF £17

FLASH

46 VF+(NM+) DOUBLE C £528
48VF(NM) DOUBLE C £495
96 VF- £280
105 F- £594
113G/VG £35
114 VG/F £40
115 G- £10
117 VG/F £40
131 VG+ £16
132 F £20
133 VG+ £17
137 G+ £28
138 F- £19
139 G/VG £12
140 F/VF £30
148 VG £10
169 VF+ £35
176 NM £14
187 VF/NM £15
196 VF £12
AN1 G/VG £34
AN 1 VG £40

GREEN LANTERN

1 F+ £594
2 VG+ £119
2 G/VG £79
3 VG- £52
3 VG+ £60
5 G/VG £35
5 VG £48
9 VG £28
9 VG- £26
10 VG £28
12 VG/F £28
12 VF £69
14 VG/F £26
16 VF- £46
17 F+ £34
18 F- £21
20 G/VG LOOSE FC £12

GREEN LANTERN

21 F+ £33
22 VG £16
23 F/VF £30
23 VG £16
24 VG/F £21
24 G+ £10
25 F £23
25 VG £16
26 VF £50
26 VG/F £21
27 VG £16
28 F £26
29 F/VF £30
31 G/VG £10
31 VF £40
32 VG £14
33 VF £39
33 G/VG £10
33 F+ £24
34 G/VG £10
35 VF/NM £50
35 VF £40
36 G/VG £11
36 VG+ £17
37 F- £18
38 VG £14
39 VF £33
39 F+ £24
40 VF £215
40 VG+ £78
40 G+ £36
42 VG+ £11
43 VF £26
44 VG+ £12
45 NM £53
45 VG/F £15
47 VF £26
48 VF £25
48 F £14
49 F/VF £18
50 VF+ £32
56 VF- £12
57 VF £14
58 F+ £10
59 F+ £46
59 G/VG £17
59 VF/NM LOOSE BOTTOM STAPLE ... £40
60 NM £16
62 VF £11
63 VF+ £14
64 VF £11
66 VF £11
66 VF/NM £12
67 VF+ £14
71 VF/NM £11
76 F/VF £50
76 F- £28
85 VF+ £24
85 VG/F £10

HOUSE OF MYSTERY

7 VG/F £39
8 F £40
8 G/VG £21
10 VG+ £36
10 G £14
19 F £23
21 VG/F £21
23 G/VG £13
42 VG/F £15
59 VF £21
148 F/VF £14
151 NM £30
152 VF+ £20
152 F/VF £15
153 NM £45
153 F+ £12
154 VF/NM £24
155 NM £30
156 F+ £12
157 NM+ £36
157 NM- £26
159 NM+ £43
162 VF/NM £17
164 VF+ £16
167 VF+ £16
172 NM £20

HOUSE OF SECRETS

6 VF £59
16 VG+ £12
20 VG+ £12
31 F+ [illegible]
69 F- £10
72 VF+ £20
78 VF/NM £13
79 VF £16

JUSTICE LEAGUE

1 VG/F £462
1 VG+ £429
2 VG £86
2 VG/F £125
2 FA £28
3 G/VG £50
3 VG £60
3 VG+ £80
4 VG/F £70
4 FA- £12
7 G £16
7 FA £10
8 VG/F £36
10 VG/F £47
10 FA £10
13 VG+ £35
13 G/VG £19
14 G £10
14 VG- £20
15 G £12
16 G+ £10

JUSTICE LEAGUE

16 G/VG £14
16 VG £18
17 VF/VF £40
17 VG £17
19 F £26
19 VF £43
19 G/VG £14
20 VG- £16
20 F- £26
20 VG £18
22 VG £28
23 VF £30
24 VF £30
24 F+ £19
24 VG+ £11
24 VG £10
25 F+ £16
25 VF £30
26 VG £10
26 F £15
26 F- £14
28 VG/F £16
32 NM+ £28
41 VF £12
43 VF/NM £12
49 VF/NM £10

METAL MEN

1 VG- £48
2 G/VG £12
3 VG+ £14
3 F+ £28
5 F- £22
6 VG/F £22
9 VF- £18

MY GREATEST ADVENTURE

6 VG- £23
7 FA/G £12
8 VG/F £36
11 VG £18
18 G £10
19 VG+ 1 IN TR 1 PG £19
20 VG/F £30
21 F £20
24 VF £36
[illegible] £10
31 VG/F £12
33 VG+ £11
76 VG- £10
77 VF+ £12
77 NM+ £17
80 G+ £26
82 F/VF £33
82 VG- £15
[illegible] £16
83 VG+ £21
83 VF £53
83 VG+ £21
84 VF £53
[illegible] £18

[illegible]

2 G/VG CHIP OUT BC £80
3 VG £85
4 FA- £17
5 G+ £43
6 VF- £138
7 FA- £15
8 G/VG £43
9 FA+ £23
11 F+ £73
12 G/VG £30
13 G+ £25
13 VG+ 1 IN TR BC £36
15 G/VG £30
16 VG £33
16 FA £12
25 VG- £30
30 VG+ £20
30 VG/F 1/2 IN TR BC £24
31 VG/F £26
35 VG £24
35 F+ £36
35 G/VG £12
40 VG £24
41 F- £24
44 G/VG £12
45 VF- £46
46 VG- £16
47 F/VF £33
48 VG- £15
50 VG- £16
51 F/VF £36
51 VG/F £19
53 VG+ £198
58 F- £30
65 VG+ £17
67 F+ 1 PC TAPE BC £16
71 VG £14
75 VG+ £37
75 F £40
79 VF £30
98 VF+ £12

SGT BILKO

2 VF/NM £132
3 NM- £112
5 NM+ £138
12 VG- £20
15 VG+ £21

SGT BILKO'S PVT DOBERMAN

1 VF+ £185
1 VG+ £33
2 VG+ £22

SHOWCASE

4 VG £2500
22 VF (R) £660
25 VF- £118
27 VG- £53
28 F- £56
29 VG+ £56
29 G+ £23
30 G/VG £35
35 G+ £60
37 VG £72
40 VG £40
41 VG- £12
43 F+ LOOSE TOP STAPLE £92
45 VG- £17
73 F+ £22
74 F+ £18
75 VG/F £18
83 VF £23
84 NM £35

STRANGE ADVENTURES

1 VG+ £330
2 NM £594
2 VG+ £119
4 FA/G £33
5 G/VG £50
5 F 1 IN SPS, CHIP OUT BC £82
7 VG- 1 IN TR BC ... £56
7 F- £89
8 G+ £40
13 F- £68
16 F/VF £105
17 VF+ SM TR BC £158
18 VG+ £62
18 G- £23
19 F+ £72
19 FA £23
22 VF- £99
22 G £17
23 F £53
24 F/VF £80
25 F £52
26 VF £115
27 VF £115
28 F £50
28 VG/F £43
29 F- £40
31 F- £46
35 VG/F £37
36 VG £32
37 VG £33
39 VG+ £50
40 G/VG £50
42 VG £27
43 F+ £53
45 VG/F £36
48 F- £36
47 F/VF £50
62 VG £14
63 VG+ £19
73 F/VF £21
74 VG+ CHIP OUT BC £12
75 VG/F £15
76 F- £15
81 F- CHIP OUT BC £12
81 VG+ £14
84 VG/F £15
85 VG+ £14
86 VG £11
87 VG/F £15
88 VG £11
91 VG- £10
92 VG £12
94 VG+ £12
97 VG/F £15
103 F+ £17
125 VF £17
180 FA+ £15
180 VG £37
190 VG- £20
195 NM £52
208 F £10
208 VF/NM £18
209 VF £14
210 VF £14
212 VF £10
213 VF £12

SUPERBOY

4 VF- £264
11 VG+ £70
12 F £80
18 VF+ 1 IN SPS £80
19 VG/F £53
20 F- £52
23 F- £80
29 F £43
31 G+ £15
33 VG £23
36 VG+ £30
37 G/VG £18
34 F+ £56
41 VG/F £23
42 VG/F 1/3 IN TR BC £21
48 G+ £10
51 VG/F £19
54 VG NOC £12
60 F/VF £30
65 VF- £27
67 F/VF £23

SUPERGIRL

VG £59
70 VF £30
72 VF- £26
75 VF- £22
81 F/VF £14
82 F- £13
83 VG £11
84 VG/F £10
85 F+ £14
87 F/VF £15
88 F/VF £15
88 VG/F £12
90 VG+ £11
91 F- £12
99 VF £14
100 VG+ £30
100 F+ £43
100 F- £35

SUPERMAN

7 VG/F 1 IN SPS ... £430
8 VG 2 IN SPS £231
19 G+ £105
29 G+ £70
36 VG+ £132
37 VG £73
38 VG- £92
38 VG+ £100
40 VG £86
40 F WRITING FC .. £93
41 VG+ £98
42 VG/F SM PC OUT FC £85
44 G/VG £56
72 VG/F 1 IN SPS ... £65
75 VG+ £60
78 VG PC OUT FC .. £30
82 VG/F CHIP OUT BC £60
84 G/VG £33
85 F- £60
87 F- £62
88 F/VF 1 IN TR BC £79
89 VG+ £56
89 F- £62
89 VG £43
90 F+ SM TR FC £79
91 VG+ £37
92 F £50
93 VG/F 1/2 IN TR BC, [illegible] £40
95 VF- £120
95 G £20
96 VG/F £53
96 FA+ £17
97 VG/F CHIP OUT BC £46
111 VG+ £37
112 F+ £53
115 F- £40
115 VG+ £30
116 G/VG £23
118 F/VF £60
127 F- £30
127 VG/F £26
128 F- £26
128 VG+ £26
132 VG/F £20
133 VG+ £22
134 VG+ £22
135 VG £16
136 VG+ £22
136 F- £23
137 VG+ £22
137 VG £14
137 G+ £10
138 F £23
138 VG- £15
138 VG/F £23
138 F- £23
139 F/VF £35
139 VG+ £22
139 G+ £10
139 VG+ £16
140 G+ £12
143 VG £10
145 VG/F £18
148 F £18
163 VF £15
177 VF/NM £18
177 VF £15
178 NM+ £23
178 VF/NM £15
179 NM+ £23
179 VF £15
180 NM- £20
181 VF+ £12
184 NM £14
185 VF+ £12
190 VF £10
190 VF/NM £12
191 VF+ £12
192 VF/NM £12
192 NM+ £16
194 NM £14
198 VF/NM £12
199 F- £30
199 F+ £48
AN2 VF- £82
AN7 VF+ £36

SUPERMAN'S GIRL [illegible] LOIS LANE

25 VG £14
27 VG+ £14
28 VF £20
62 VF/NM £10
66 VF+ £10
70 VF £83
70 G+ £20
AN2 VG/F £14
AN2 VG+ £11

SUPERMAN'S PAL [illegible]

2 VG ..... [illegible]
14 G £12
20 VF NOC £30
30 F- £20
39 F £16

WORLD'S FINEST

26 VG+ PC OUT BC £60
59 FA+ £25
66 G/VG £46
88 VG- 1 PC TAPE INSIDE FC £53
111 VG/F £15
111 VG+ £11
111 F+ £19
112 VF £29
116 VG/F £17
120 VG+ £15
120 F £10
121 VG £10
132 VF £15
140 VF £15
156 F+ £20

MARVELS [illegible] AMAZING FANTASY

15 VF (R) £2300
15 F+ CHIPS £1450

AVENGERS

1 VF+ TRIMMED .. £594
1 G/VG £180
1 G- £112
2 VF £198
5 F £49
7 F £30
7 VG/F £26
7 VG- £18
8 VG+ £22
9 F+ £48
10 VG+ £23
10 F+ £36
10 VF/NM £80
10 VG £22
10 F £30
10 G £12
11 VF- £56
11 F+ £46
12 VF £50
12 F+ £35
13 VG/F £17
13 VG- £12
13 VG £15
13 G/VG £10
13 VF/NM £30
13 VF £25
13 VG+ £20
13 VG/F £25
14 VF/NM £50
14 VG- £12
14 F/VF £40
14 F- £20
14 NM £70
14 VF/NM £47
15 F £22
15 VG- £14
15 NM- £63
15 VG+ £20
17 VF/NM £27
17 VG+ £18
18 VG+ £10
18 VF+ £35
18 VG/F £12
18 VF £35
19 F £18
21 F- £12
21 VG+ £10
21 F £12
22 F+ £15
22 F/VF £11
22 F £10
24 VF/NM £15
24 VF £12
24 F/VF £11
28 NM- £17
28 F/VF £12
28 VF/NM £15
27 VF/NM £15
29 VF+ £16
29 VF £14
29 F+ £10
30 NM- £19
30 VF £12
31 VF+ £12
96 VF/NM £17
AN1 VG+ £12

DAREDEVIL

1 VG+ £250
1 G- £115
2 VF- £130
3 VF+ £135
3 VG £40
3 VG+ £53
4 VF £73
5 VG/F £37
6 VG/F £25
7 VG- £18
8 VF+ £63
8 VG £18
8 VG/F £25
9 F/VF £30
9 VG £14
9 G/VG £11
9 VG/F £25
10 F/VF £37
10 F- £18
10 VG+ £18

[redacted]

10 VF £35
11 VF £23
11 VG £10
12 VG/F £16
13 VG/F £15
14 VG/F £15
16 F/VF £30
17 VF £35
17 F+ £24
17 F £20
18 VG+ £12
19 VG/F £12
19 VF/NM £22
19 VF £26
19 VG+ £12
20 F £10
20 F- £11
20 VG+ £10
21 NM- £17
21 VF/NM £15
21 VF+ £15
21 VF- £12
22 VF £12
22 VF- £10
23 VF £15
24 VF+ £16
27 VF £10
28 VF/NM £16
28 F+ £10
29 VF £10
35 VF/NM £11
37 VF £10
53 ..... £12
AN 1 VF/NM £14

DOCTOR STRANGE

170 VF £18
171 F- £10
173 VF+ £18
177 VF £18
181 F+ £12
182 VF £14
182 F+ £12
183 VF £14

FANTASTIC FOUR

1 F 2 PC TAPE
FC £1716
1 VF REPRINT £50
2 G/VG £230
3 F £295
5 VF+ £858
7 VG/F STICKER ON PRICE £80
7 FA £20
8 FA- £26
9 F/VF £185
9 VG/F £140
9 FA £26
10 VF+ £363
13 VG+ £80
14 VF- £83
16 VG+ £48
17 VG/F CHIP OUT BC £53
18 VF £112
19 F+ £70
19 VF/NM £145
20 VG- £37
20 G/VG £30
20 G/VG £26
20 VG/F £40
20 VG/F £60
21 VG/F £35
23 VF/NM £83
23 G+ £10
24 VF £46
24 G/VG £18
24 VG- £16
26 G £23
26 VG+ £60
28 VG £22
28 G- £12
29 F- £16
34 VF £26
34 VG+ £15
35 VF- £26
35 VF/NM £35
35 VG/F £16
36 VG/F £16
37 F £18
37 VF £23
38 VF+ £30
38 VG+ £15
40 VF £21
40 F £17
41 VG/F £12
42 F- £12
43 VF £20
43 VG+ £12
44 F+ £17
44 VF/NM £23
44 F+ £14
45 VG/F £12
46 VF £18
47 NM £40
47 NM- £26
47 VF- £17
48 VF £264
49 VG £19
50 VG- SM PC TAPE FC £19
50 G+ £15
53 VF £21
54 VF+ £17
55 NM+ £46
55 VF+ £23
55 VF £21
58 F/VF £18
59 F+ £16
60 F/VF £17
60 VF £15
62 F/VF £11

[redacted]

62 VF £15
[redacted] £18
[redacted] £23
67 VF+ £50
67 F+ £37
67 VG+ £20
68 VF/NM £18
69 VF- £12
70 VF- £12
77 VF+ £12
77 VF- £11
AN2 VF+ £120
AN2 VG- £24
AN2 VG+ £33
AN4 VG/F £15
AN8 VF £16

SPIDER-MAN

1 FA+ £462
2 FA/P £112
3 G AD PG OUT £46
4 G £75
4 VF £396
6 FA £43
7 VF £270
7 FA+ £35
8 FA £29
8 G/VG £65
9 F/VF £210
9 FA- £26
12 F+ £99
12 G- £23
13 FA/G £29
13 G £26
14 NM- £890
14 VG+ £231
14 FA £56
15 FA £19
16 VF £112
17 G- £33
18 VF £105
18 G £21
20 F/VF £89
20 G- £20
21 VF+ £105
22 VF £70
24 VF+ £73
24 VG £23
24 VF/NM £100
25 G £15
26 F £53
26 FA/G £15
27 VG £26
27 VG £30
27 VG+ £40
27 G+ £18
29 VG £22
29 VG/F £35
29 G+ £15
30 NM £125
30 VF/NM £76
30 VF- £46
30 F+ £39
33 F+ £35
36 VF+ £60
37 VF £35
37 G/VG £17
38 NM+ £72
37 F £26
38 VF £43
38 VG/F £23
38 F £26
39 G £11
40 VF- £82
40 G+ £18
41 G/VG £10
41 F- £43
42 VF+ £46
44 VF/NM £29
45 VF/NM £30
46 VF £25
46 VF £25
47 VF/NM £30
47 VG £11
48 VF/NM £37
48 VF £23
48 VG/F £16
49 F £12
50 VG £43
51 VG £16
52 VG/F £12
53 F £13
53 VG/F £11
54 F+ £16
56 VF £19
58 VF+ £26
59 VF/NM £22
59 NM- £30
59 VF £22
60 VG+ £11
61 VF/NM £19
61 VG/F £11
63 F £10
64 NM £25
64 VF+ £21
64 VF £18
65 VF £18
66 VF/NM £22
67 VF/NM £19
67 VF+ £17
67 VF £15
67 F £10
67 F/VF £16
68 F+ £12
68 F £10
69 VG/F £11
70 VF £16
70 VF- £15
71 VF £18
73 VF £18
73 F- £10
74 VF/NM £18
76 F/VF £12
77 F/VF £13

SPIDER-MAN

78 VF/NM £19
82 NM- £22
82 VF £16
82 VF+ £15
83 VF £10
84 NM £23
88 VF £16
89 NM- £22
91 VF £15
91 VF+ £18
98 VG £14
99 VF £12
100 F/VF £46
101 VF/F £33
105 VF/NM £11
108 VF/NM £11
109 NM- £15
109 VF £11
110 NM £15
115 VF/NM £14
116 NM+ £18
117 VF/NM £10
117 VF+ £10
119 NM- £19
121 VF £42
122 VF/NM £66
122 VF+ £63
122 VG- £18
126 NM- £16
126 VF/NM £11
126 VF/NM £12
127 NM £14
127 VF/NM £12
128 NM £14
129 VG+ £70
130 NM+ £13
132 NM+ £13
132 VF+ £11
133 NM- £11
135 F+ £27
AN2 G £11
AN3 VF+ £27
AN4 NM- £35
AN5 VF/NM £29

STRANGE TALES

103 VF- £72
103 G/VG £20
104 VF+ £92
106 VF- £46
108 VF £59
108 G/VG £14
109 VG/F £20
109 F+ £37
111 F 1/2 IN TR FC £66
114 VF- £92
115 VG+ £65
115 F/VF £145
117 NM- £33
117 NM £36
126 VG/F £12
128 F+ £12
129 VF £15
131 VF £10
131 VG/F £10
132 F+ £12
133 VG/F £10
134 VG/F £10
137 VF £10
141 VF/NM £15
142 VF £10
143 VF £12
143 VF/NM £12
144 VF £10
144 VF/NM £15
146 VF £10
147 VF £11
149 NM- £15
149 NM £10
150 VF/NM £12
152 VF £10
166 VF+ £15

SUB MARINER

1 G- £12
2 F/VF £22
3 NM+ £18
4 VF £12
6 NM £17
6 VF £11

TALES OF SUSPENSE

40 FA £60
41 F+ CHIP OUT BC £85
41 G/VG £72
44 F £59
44 F/VF £92
46 VF/NM £85
46 FA+ £10
49 VF- £52
49 VG+ £26
52 VF- £40
54 VG/F £14
55 VF- £24
61 F+ £18
64 VF+ £27
65 VF+ £46
66 NM £59
67 VF- £15
68 VF- £15
73 VF+ £18
74 NM £26
75 VF/NM £24
75 VF- £15
76 VF+ £21
77 VF+ £18
77 VF/NM £20
80 VF+ £18
81 VF £17
82 VF/NM £17
82 F/VF £12

[redacted]

83 VF+ £19
83 VG/F £10
83 NM £25
83 VF+ £18
83 VG/F £10
84 VF+ £20
84 VF £17
85 VF £18
85 F+ £15
87 VF/NM £20
87 VF/NM £22
89 NM £22
90 F- £10
96 VF £10
96 NM £20
96 VF+ £18
97 F- £10
98 VF £17
99 F+ £22

TALES TO ASTONISH

38 F- 356
41 VG/F £35
42 F £35
43 VG+ £30
51 F+ £17
51 F- £16
52 VG+ £16
55 F/VF £26
55 VG+ £12
56 VG+ £10
58 VG+ NOC £12
59 VF+ £59
60 VG £23
64 VG+ £11
65 F £15
65 F+ £18
66 VG+ £11
67 F+ £11
68 VF £21
69 F+ £12
69 VF £21
72 VF £14
73 F £10
74 VF+ £17
75 VF/NM £15
79 VF £12
79 F £10
80 VF+ £10
81 VF £11
83 VF £10
84 VF/NM £15
84 VF+ £15
85 NM £23
85 VF/NM £18
85 F/VF £14
86 VF £10
87 VF+ £18
87 VF £16
88 VF £15
89 VF £12
97 VF £17
98 NM- £20
99 VF £15
100 VF+ £24

THOR

83 VF- £924
83 VG- (R) £15
87 VG- £28
88 VF £79
90 F £30
95 VG- £15
96 VF £46
97 F £38
98 VF/NM £50
98 VF £43
99 VF/NM £49
100 VG/F £18
102 VG- £10
110 F/VF £18
110 VF+ £29
113 F/VF £15
113 VF+ £22
114 VF £20
116 F/VF £20
117 F- £12
117 VG £10
118 VG+ £12
119 F/VF £20
119 VG+ £10
120 F £11
120 VF+ £23
120 VF £19
121 F- £12
122 VF £23
122 VF/NM £22
123 NM £35
124 NM £36
124 VF £17
125 VG+ £12
125 VG/F £11
126 VG £16
127 VF/NM £17
128 VF/NM £22
128 F/VF £10
129 VF/NM £17
129 NM- £23
129 VF+ £22
130 VF £12
131 F+ £16
132 VF/NM £16
132 F/VF £16
132 VF+ £20
133 VF/NM £22
134 NM- £28
134 VF+ £26
134 NM £37
135 VF+ £20
136 F/VF £10
137 VF- £18
138 VF/NM £17
139 VF/NM £22
140 VF/NM £17

THOR

147 NM- £17
147 VF+ £15
149 VF £15
151 VF+ £15
151 VF £12
153 NM £18
153 VF/NM £10
154 NM £18
155 VF £10
157 VF+ £15
158 VF £28
158 F+ £22
159 NM- £17
173 NM- £11
193 NM- £24

X-MEN

2 VG £132
8 VG+ £35
10 VF/NM £89
14 VF- £37
14 VG/F £26
15 VG £16
15 F £22
17 VG/F £16
18 VF+ £35
18 VG+ £15
19 VF/NM £40
19 VG/F £16
19 F- £16
19 VF- £28
19 F £16
20 VG- £11
20 VG £12
21 VG+ £12
22 F+ £21
22 F- £15
22 VF £23
23 VF/NM £35
24 VG/F £15
25 VF £25
26 F/VF £20
26 F £15
27 VG £10
27 F+ £18
29 F- £15
30 F/VF £20
30 VG+ £10
31 VG/F £10
31 NM £28
32 NM- £23
32 VG+ £10
32 VF £16
33 VG/F £10
34 VF/NM £20
36 NM £29
36 VF/NM £22
36 VF+ £19
36 F+ £11
37 VF/NM £20
37 VG/F £10
37 NM £23
38 VG/F £16
39 VG/F £16
40 NM £29
40 VG/F £10
40 NM £26
47 F/VF £11
51 F/VF £12
51 F+ £12
55 VF+ £16
56 NM+ £32
56 VF NAME ON BC £14
57 VF+ ..... [redacted]
61 VF £20
86 VF+ £11
90 VF/NM £10
91 VF/NM £10
98 VF/NM £22
99 VF+ £20
99 VF/NM £22
108 VF/NM £10
115 NM £10
117 NM £11
118 VF/NM £10
120 NM £20
120 VF £15
GS1 VF+ £125

EC'S CRIME PATROL

15 FA- £46

[redacted]

1 G+ £62
2 G- £26
2 VG £59
2 VG+ £72
3 G/VG PC OUT 3 PAGES £26
4 VG/F £52
6 G+ £18
7 VF £86
9 F/VF £63
9 G/VG PC OUT BC £17
13 G/VG £18
14 VG- £18
15 VG+ £24
16 VF £65
17 VG- £24
18 VG+ £24
19 G £10
25 VG+ £18
26 VG+ £18

DANDY

4 VG £18

[redacted]

2 VG- £36
3 FA/G £12
8 VG £43

GUNFIGHTER

5 G £28
5 F £76

[redacted]

30 VG £33
31 FA £15
31 VG £35
32 FA £14
32 VG- £35

[redacted]

1 VG+ £40

[redacted]

16 (#2) VG+ £171
5 VG/F £83
9 VG ..... [redacted]
11 VG+ £40
20 VG- £25
21 F- £24
21 VG/F CHIP OUT BC £23

IMPACT

3 F £15
4 F+ £18

MAD

8 VG+ £60
10 VG/F £65
15 VG £50
22 NM £125

MD

1 F- £18
3 VG/F £15
4 VG+ £14

MODERN LOVE

3 F/VF £86

[redacted]

8 VG+ £73

PIRACY

4 VG- £12
4 VG £15

SHOCK SUSPENSTORIES

2 F/VF £92
3 VG £33
9 VG- £24
15 G+ £11
18 VG £20
17 VG- £16

[redacted]

21 VG+ £132
22 G/VG £56
23 F- £83
29 VG- £47
34 F/VF £72
35 F+ £66

[redacted]

2 G/VG £63

TWO FISTED TALES

19 FA+ £26
19 FA £23
20 FA £16
21 VG- £22
22 FA £10
26 VG+ £22
27 VG+ £30

VALOR

2 VG+ £26
2 G/VG £20
3 VG- £15
4 VG+ £20
4 VG- £15
5 F £22

VAULT OF HORROR

13 G- £58
16 G/VG £43
17 G+ £26
22 VG- £30
23 F- £46
25 VG/F £48
27 F+ £48

WAR AGAINST CRIME

11 VG- £105

WEIRD FANTASY

13 (#1) VG+ £178
15 (#3) VG+ £82

WEIRD FANTASY

6 F £60
8 G/VG NAME ON COVER £23
8 F+ £73
11 F/VF SM STAIN BC £53
12 G+ £18
17 VG+ £36
21 F/VF £105
22 VG+ £30

WEIRD SCIENCE

15 (#4) VG/F £105
6 VG- £43
8 F+ £73
11 G/VG £24
12 FA PG TORN [redacted] £11
17 VG+ £36
18 FA+ £13
19 FA £15
20 F £65

WEIRD SCIENCE FANTASY

23 VG/F 1 IN SPS ... £40
29 VG/F £86

HORROR MYSTERY [redacted]

[redacted]

2 VG £21
3 VG+ £22
4 VG+ £22

[redacted]

12 VG+ £13
18 VF+ £53
21 VG/F £19
25 VF/NM £48
34 VG LOOSE CVR . £11
35 VG+ £18

[redacted]

8 G/VG £30
12 G/VG £23

[redacted]

4 VF- £132
5 VF £178

[redacted]

6 VG- £14
9 F £22
10 VG/F £22
10 VG/F £20
11 G/VG £10
15 VG/F £20
19 F+ £24

BEYOND

4 VG/F £18
6 F- £16
6 VG+ £15
7 F- £16
7 VF- £25
7 VG £12
8 F 1/2 IN TR BC £18
10 VG/F £18
12 VG+ £12

BLACK CAT

31 VF/NM £28
31 VF- £23
31 VF/NM £28
31 NM- £30
31 F/VF £21
32 VF+ £264
32 VF/NM £28
37 VF/NM £28
38 VF/NM £28
40 VG/F £17
42 VF+ £25
47 VG+ SM PC OUT FC £12
51 F £17

BLACK MAGIC

V2 #3 VG- £25
V2 #8 VG £19
V8 #4 VF £11

[redacted]

113 VG- £25
114 VG/F £36
116 VG £28
116 VF+ £73
119 FA/G £11

CAPTAIN ATOM

78 VF/NM £30
83 NM- £17
89 F+ £14

CHAMBER OF CHILLS

5 VG/F ..... [redacted]
6 F- ..... [redacted]

CHAMBER OF CHILLS

8 VG/F CHIP OUT FC £16
10 F £18
11 F- £13
17 VG+ £17

DARK MYSTERIES

22 VG/F £16
23 VG+ £12

EERIE

3 VG £46
4 VG- £33
12 VG+ £20

FORBIDDEN WORLDS

2 VG £56
4 G/VG £20
5 VG/F PC OUT FC £45
12 VF £40
12 F/VF 1 PC TAPE BC £19
15 F £20
26 F/VF £22
63 VG+ £10
77 VF £17
97 VF- £10

HAND OF FATE

8 VG £27
10 VG/F £20
10 VG+ £15
11 F £19
12 F- £17
14 F £18
17 F+ £20
22 VG+ £16
25 F+ £18

[redacted]

12 F £19
13 F- £17

[redacted]

3 VG/F £92
4 VG/F £95
4 G/VG PC OUT BC £48
6 VG+ £50
11 VG £40
21 F- £48
24 F+ £35
42 VG+ £20
55 VG/F £22
72 VG- £15

MARVEL TALES

96 FA+ £18
98 VG/F SM PC OUT BC £50

[redacted]

1 NM- £15
1 NM- £15
1 VF+ £12

SPACE ACTION

3 FA+ £17
3 FA/G £18
3 FA+ £17

SPACE ADVENTURES

13 F/VF £28
13 VG/F £19
21 F £43
23 VG- £12

SPELLBOUND

4 G/VG £14
4 G/VG £15
10 VG £15
30 VG+ £12

TRANGE SUSPENSE STORIES

27 F- £11
75 VG/F £18
76 VF £12
77 VG/F £12
77 F- £12

SUSPENSE

2 VF/NM £73
4 VG+ £20
7 G/VG £11

TALES OF HORROR

3 VG- £11
3 VG/F £17
5 VG/F £16
12 VG/F £22

[redacted]

13 F/VF £53
13 F- £36
21 F- £28
26 G/VG £14
33 G/VG £12
36 VF £53

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Comment is a forum to enable fans and professionals alike to express their personal points of view on aspects of the comics industry.

As such, the opinions stated do not necessarily reflect those of the publication, and space will be given in subsequent issues to opposing views. Editing of accepted manuscripts will be done only as a matter of grammar, clarity and space consideration.

In defence of the Dark Knight's creators

Comment by Reubs Willmott, Ipswich, Suffolk

I DO HAVE some sympathy with Elizabeth Kaspar's concern over violence and right-wing ideas in comics and films (*Comment*, **Comics International 34**), but I take issue with many points she raises.

Firstly, right wing and violence are not exclusively linked, I can think of many very bloody left-wing revolutions. However, the premise of **Batman** does seem to have some right-wing connotations which have been picked up by Frank Miller and taken to extremes in **The Dark Knight Returns**. However, Batman is foremost a vigilante who works outside of the law, a point that Elizabeth seems to have missed. I personally don't think vigilantes should be encouraged but seemingly most comic readers do, judging by their large readership. **Batman** always has been a vigilante, so why pretend otherwise?

I don't think it's clear cut that Frank Miller is right wing or fascist. Are Wagner, Grant, Ennis and all the others who have worked on **Judge Dredd** right-wing bastards because of the strip they produced? I think not. Admittedly a lot of Miller's work seems a bit dubious in content, but he claims he isn't right wing and people who know him say that he isn't, so I'm prepared to take his word for it.

One of the problems of exploring (or satirising) fascist ideas/imagery is that a lot of knee-jerk, so-called liberals miss the point and want it banned. Freedom of speech? Not if you contradict their ideals. Grant Morrison got into trouble for writing **The New Adventures of Adolf Hitler** — the critics missed the point. Morrisey of the Smiths wrapped himself in a Union Jack and sang "National Front Disco" — the critics missed the point. Miller and Gibbons had Nazi lesbian groups in **Give Me Liberty**, the critics missed the point.

Why shouldn't right-wing views not be expressed in comics and film, Elizabeth? Is it because you're left wing and think only left-wing statements should be made in these media? Fascist ideas should be wiped out by strong arguments, rather than censorship. I'd prefer to read Miller's nasty **Sin City** than Pat Mills' **Third World War** with its patronising blatant lecturing down to its readers. **Sin City** seems to challenge our preconceptions of what is right or wrong; the comic should at the end of the day appal the reader, but sadly some people may get a cheap thrill out of it. But if **Sin City** wasn't around, I'm sure these types of people will get their kicks out of something else.

Miller's interpretation of Batman is neither pretentious nor experimental (these labels apply more to **Arkham Asylum**). Miller is a very good storyteller, which is a talent unknown to the majority of comic writers (and artists). Miller proves he can tell a good Batman story without excessive violence in **Batman: Year One**.

Elizabeth has picked out many valid faults with superhero comics — which begs the question, why do you read them, or do you read them? The comics medium has a very narrow self-restricted view and is generally read by narrow minded, gullible people. It does trouble me that young, impressionable people are seeing things that are telling them that violence is the only answer, but I think most of them will grow out of the films and comics that show them this, as most are just puerile rubbish.

It reminds me of the end of the violent book **A Clockwork Orange**, where the youth group of yobs grow up, get married and see there's more to life than what they have been doing. A lot of people are blinded by the violence of the book and miss the message.

Finally, to return to Frank Miller once more, I would have thought that with **Hard Boiled**, people wouldn't need to read violent comics again, as you can see it all there. Showing how mindless, repetitive and cliched comics violence is.

Vertigo's tunnel vision

Comment by Jim Graham, Wickham, Kent

I'M A self confessed intellectual naval-contemplator, one of those smart-arses who read **Sandman** and **Shade** "before they were popular". You would think therefore that I would have applauded when DC announced its plans to consolidate its "mature readers" titles under the Vertigo banner. So why was it that this summer, I was more excited about the length of Superman's hair than the adventures of his more bizarre cousins on the other side of the DC office? Why are Vertigo finding themselves having to make cutbacks now when there was so much potential? The answer: Vertigo produces the best intelligence-insulting material in the business.

Look at the new **Doom Patrol**. Ted McKeever and Brian Bolland won't help to improve the writing on this title. Rachel Pollack has taken Grant Morrison's very successful formula, removed every single scrap

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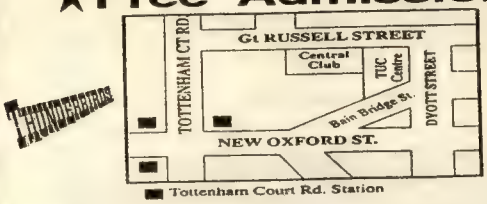

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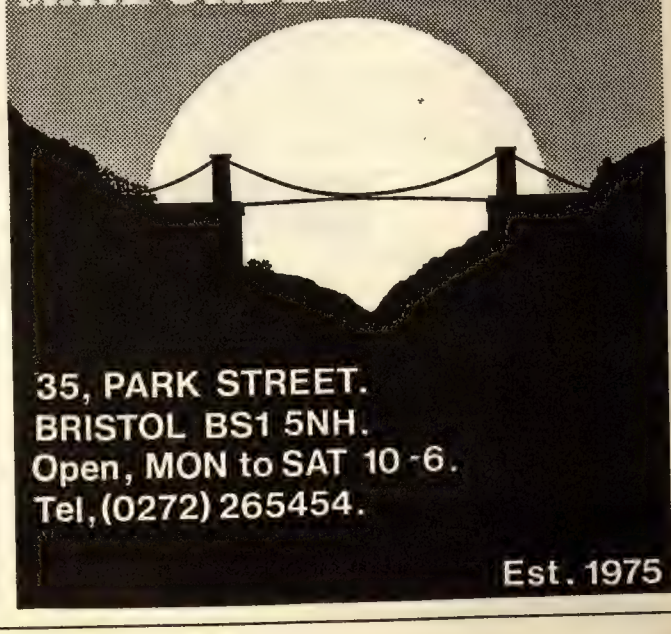
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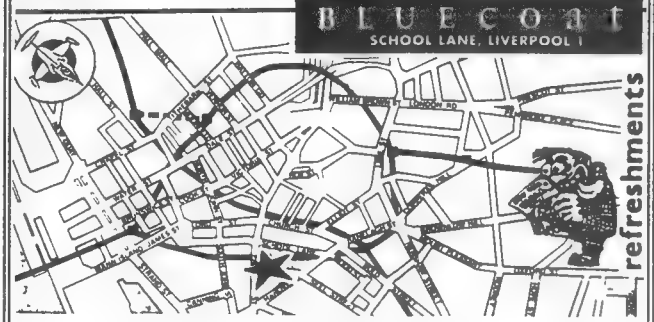

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of characterisation and plotting, placed it in a house full of ghosts who died having sex in a variety of different ways (oh, how wonderfully mature: sex!), added a few little statements such as "I know a little bit about African mythology, you know", and that's it. **Kid Eternity**, another Grant Morrison revamp is written by the lady who gives us **Daredevil** and **Venom**. To be fair, she has managed to fill it with personal ideas, even if they are rather uninteresting. But again, missing are the plot and characterisation: it is a total mess. **Black Orchid** actually showed promise. That is until it fell into the formulaic trap: strong female characters, on the road plotline and oh-so bizarre ideas.

All three series are being hacked at the moment, with no effort being made to create something inspired. The three new ongoing monthlies: **Kid Eternity**, **Black Orchid** and (if it comes out), **Arcana** are all based on characters who have already had their own mini-series. **Scarab** was completely new, which is why it has been emasculated. The fact that, given John Smith's track record of late, it was almost certainly going to be the best of the bunch didn't come into it. When **Sandman** and **Shade** came out, DC were a bit more adventurous.

The only real success Vertigo can claim is **Enigma**: one of a rare breed of titles that actually lived up to its hype. Aside from that, and the titles that existed before the Vertigo shift, nothing really worthwhile has been produced. The problem seems to be that Vertigo doesn't really understand the subject matter it is working with. Look at **Sandman** and **Shade**: there really aren't two more different comics on the shelves today. And yet they've been put under the same banner. All the new titles have tried to be a bit of both, and failed miserably. I was under the impression that Vertigo was created to house all the titles that didn't quite fit under the DC banner. But how many humour titles have they produced? The only science fiction story printed has been **Sebastian O**, more because it was written by Grant Morrison than anything else. Let's be honest here, with the exception of **Sandman** and **Hellblazer**, all Vertigo's titles are about superheroes, vegetables or not.

With the demise of **Sandman**, Vertigo will become little more than Piranha Press: The Sequel, unless they learn to stop resting on their laurels and start looking for some truly inspired writing. This is what their success has been on, not on characters with funny names and dodgy idiosyncrasies. Their long track record has proved that it's out there, but they don't seem to be interested in it any more.

Comics: one step forward and then two steps back

Comment by Wayne Clark, Ampthill, Bedfordshire

IN THE LATE 1980s the comic book industry stood at a crossroads. The advent of the mature, or adult comic had created the possibility of a virtual revolution of the comic world.

In many ways, the traditional superhero book was on the defensive. The revisionist work of Alan Moore and Frank Miller appeared to have said all that could be said about the superhero mythology. Alternative subject matters and stylistic techniques were beginning to be explored. The future of comics looked genuinely exciting.

Several years later, and where do we stand? Unfortunately, the early 1990s have been largely defined by the resurgence of the superhero, and this can only lead to a general regression in the development of the comic book medium.

Although there are still some superb books being published by progressive companies (such as Vertigo, Dark Horse, Tundra, etc.), every comic publisher now seems to be producing a superhero universe of their own. The superhero seems to be gradually tightening its grip upon the output of mainstream publishers in a way that appears to be undermining the groundbreaking work created in the 1980s.

I am not attempting to belittle the genre of superheroes (although I personally find them largely immature). I appreciate that they can be potent cultural symbols and it is therefore acceptable to analyze and consider their role. I also recognise the historical significance of the work produced in superhero books by such greats as Kirby in the 1960s. However, that was then and this is now. Comics *have* developed, both in their content and in their general position within our culture. This situation will always be precarious, especially in Britain, and for this reason it is important that significant writers such as Moore and Gaiman continue to produce worthwhile and mature comics.

The growth in adult-orientated comic books of the 1980s, which finally seems to have found a united expression in the Vertigo line of comics, was based largely in a recognition of the basic fact that the comic strip is a story-telling medium, not a genre. By restricting itself to the specific genre of superheroes, the comics industry will never gain widespread respectability. The comic book medium contains the potential for a vast array of genre types (as we have traditionally seen in Europe and Japan) and the current proliferation of superhero comics will only serve to strengthen the cultural ghettoisation of comic books.

Obviously, there will always be a place for superhero comics in the general comic book marketplace. It would be naive and unrealistic to claim otherwise, simply because of

the long historical tradition of superhero books. However, this surely does not mean that superheroes must dominate the market to the point of virtually excluding alternatives.

Moreover, the vast majority of superhero books currently being published are becoming little more than the obvious recycling of old plots. Even characters themselves are often interchangeable: who can seriously differentiate between **The X-Men** and most of the recent Image superhero teams?

The entire superhero genre is rapidly becoming a self-referential industry in itself. Ultimately, this can only cause stagnation within the comic book industry as a whole.

If comics wish to consolidate and expand the level of public appreciation and respect that was created in the 1980s then they must address issues and concepts that lie outside of the introverted world of superheroes.

The large extent to which the superhero genre currently controls much of the industry can only be seen as an unhealthy indicator of the future of comics.

Is the industry expansion really a good thing?

Comment by Matthew Lawrenson, Newcastle-under-Lyme

DAVID LEE commented about comics executives not having learned a thing from the mid-1980s Turtle-clone independents implosion. (*Comment*, **Comics International 34**) The motive of the people producing the above comics, which were of poor quality by any standards, was a quick buck. These publishers went to the wall because there was no market for them.

Meanwhile the retailers, having been caught out by the success of **Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles**, invested large amounts of money in the then booming independents market. In America, apparently, dozens of retailers went to the wall because there was no market for badly done comics about martial arts-obsessed rodents.

The remaining independent publishers and retailers learned from this bad experience, that low quality, generic product had no place in the comics market. And thus, they began a slow, cautious recovery.

Between this time and 1991 new and diverse comics were created by such publishers as Dark Horse and Tundra. The market was gaining strength all the time and both publishers and retailers were benefitting from this.

But in March 1992, Valiant published **Magnus, Robot Fighter.** With this moderate success Valiant built up a steady stream of new titles. This expansion culminated in **Unity**, which caught many retailers out simply because of its comparatively large sales. Just before this, a new company formed by a group of disaffected Marvel artists produced **Youngblood.** Even though this was arguably the worst comic of the decade so far, it sold out all of its 750,000 print run.

The event jolted the comics world. Previously it was thought only big publishers such as Marvel and DC could succeed with such large print runs. Superheroes were suddenly in vogue again. Publishers with any history, like Dark Horse, Malibu and Continuity and new ones, such as Defiant and Topps raced off versions of the above with extraordinary speed, therefore making a situation where vast amounts of comics appeared on the market within a small space of time. With increasing desperation to get their products to stand out from the crowd, gimmicks were employed. Foil covers, holograms, trading cards, gold and platinum editions, zero issues and ashcans were tried with varying degrees of success.

No doubt this will cause another implosion and another loss of money on all sides. This may not be a bad thing, because maybe the publishers will finally learn that short-term thinking is a ludicrous thing to do if they want their long-term prospects to be healthy. And retailers will learn that buying loads of copies of formula produced comics, selling half, and the rest vegetating in back-issue boxes or special offer bins (eg **X-Force** 1, **X-Men** 1, **Turok** 1, **Deathmate** 1).

Crashes are inevitable in any market in which investment plays a big part, because the greed of the speculator clouds the thinking of almost everyone else involved.

The upcoming crash, which everyone sees on the horizon except the publishers, will result in better comics and wiser retailers.

Snuff movies and comics collectors

Comment by Alex Thomas, Stevenage, Hertfordshire

It seems that the subject of snuff movies has become as highly emotive to comic fans, as the outcome of the 1994 World Cup for Norwegians. I didn't think of Comics International as being the home for discussions, ranging from whether or not they exist to the moral and social implications and repercussions. The general consensus seems to be that they are as tangible as Nirvana (Heaven on Earth, not the rock band).

We live in a world that has given birth to such butchers as Adolf Hitler and Idi Amin (both men responsible for the filming of, not a couple of deaths, but thousands), we have witnessed a birth and boom in "kiddie porn" and have

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recently had the indignity of suffering 24-hour shopping on satellite TV. What makes these puritans of politically correct definition believe for one second, that such an item as a snuff film doesn't exist?

And, just what has it got to do with comics? The saddest indication is that there are people out there, that apart from enjoying reading comics, also indulge in other pastimes, for which I am no one to condemn or condone, which transcend degrees of rational thinking. Comic fans are people who are attracted to other possibly anti-social/quasi-social interests and thus, because of their nature of hoarding a mindful of useless and trivial nonsense - "Sal Buscema drew **Defenders** 6 and it was inked by Mike Esposito, and he's dead now" or are smitten with the desire to push the realms of your imagination farther than ever before. And if that means having to sit through two hours of the latest banned slasher movie, then so be it.

You know the ones I'm talking about, or at least a high percentage of you do, those of you who don't probably fit into the following three categories:

- The ones who listen to Thrash metal rock music, Goth music, indie music - wouldn't be seen dead in a nightclub or at the bar with their mates. The sort who watch *The Evil Dead* every other Friday, while the other two Fridays are spent playing D&D. The people who buy **Sandman** hoping to catch a glimpse of a tit.
- Or they might be the sort who wear an anorak and glasses, have respectable tiny circle of carbon-copy fellow male friends, who all charge off to every comic mart in the vain hope that they might meet someone else, who's interested in the same things they are - *Star Trek* perhaps? The people who secretly buy **Cherry Poptart** or **Debbie Does Dallas**. The guys who don't buy **Sandman** because it doesn't feature any super-heroes.
- They might be the swaggering, semi-cool looking dude, who looks ultra-cool when in the company of other fans, who's only inventive line is "Hey, did anybody ever tell you that you have a Todd McFarlanesque bone-structure?" You know this type of fan, he's the guy with the long flowing tresses of hair, the black T-shirt and leather trousers, who always has some pretty girl on his arm, but only spends about £5 in 5 hours and this largely on back issues of a virtually non-existent **Sandman** collection and a few Olivia trading cards, "because she draws such aesthetically pleasing women." Excuse me while I consult with Royal Doulton.

Then again, the fan with the extra-curricular activities, not commonly associated with Mr 2.4 Children, Mr Soul Boy, Ms Single Parent Black Lesbian Sperm Whale or Mr Average, is only a section. We see Mr Average at most comic marts, he's the guy having a semi-genuine conversation with a dealer or one of those comics-celebs. The guy who looks at the Hot Shots trading cards saying "You don't get many of them to the pound", rather than sneaking them home and into the toilet like Mr Anorak. Mr Average is one of the guys that probably doesn't believe in the existence of snuff movies, because Mr Average is the guy who doesn't believe that his cosy little existence could ever be broken, by anything.

Mr Soul Boy doesn't really care what exists and what doesn't - as long as he gets his lager.

Mr 2.4 Children is another man, like Ms SPBLSW who doesn't believe in the existence of "so-called" snuff movies, for all manner of unrealistic reasons. Excuse me people, but individuals such as "Nurse" Beverley Allit actually exist, they are not made up by the press because it's been a boring day. If a woman like this can kill children in hospitals for kicks, I'm sure some South American cocaine baron or Indonesian white-slave trader has discovered what a lucrative business "actual on-screen death" must be. Imagine the morbid curiosity of just the upper three categories of comic fans and how it would stimulate sales. The majority of the "normal" comic fans couldn't possibly believe that things like drug trafficking and cash and carry babies actually take place.

I met a girl at UKCAC, she had come down from Buckinghamshire with two college friends for the weekend. We talked comics and music and got on really well, until the subject of the **Comics International** micro-debate on snuff movies came to the fore. Her ignorance of the understanding of the beauty of the concept of the snuff movie was tantamount to trying to convince a born-again Christian that he's been conned. Her belief that it was nothing more than left-wing propaganda, was only brought into true perspective when she uttered the immortal response to my question "What about all the homeless people then?".

This was remarkable considering our position in London at that time, "It's probably not as bad as the TV makes it out to be. I mean, there can't be that many people without places to live.". It was not a question, it was stated as a fact.

It is this ignorance, or perhaps it's a form of blissful self-denial, that allows people to deny what is instinctively 20th century human instinct - if you can make money out of it, do it.

I don't believe there is no evidence of actual snuff movies, they said the same about hard-core pornography in the 1930s. Oddly enough, there were also a number of chaps who stated quite categorically that the world was flat.

People who renounce the actual existence of something a billion times more likely than an invasion from another world or England winning the World Cup are the modern day equivalents.

So what has this got to do with comics? Everything.

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A FEW MINUTES FROM CLAPHAM JUNCTION STATION

RETAIL index

Key to abbreviations used

imp	= air imported new issues
back	= back issues stocked
s-p	= small press & fanzines
merch	= comics-related trading cards, T-shirts, posters, models, etc
Ind	= US independent comics (non-newsstand titles)
Brit	= British comics & albums
frgn	= foreign language comics
u/g	= underground comics
gn	= graphic novels & trade paperback editions
STO	= standing order service, new comics reserved
RPG	= role playing games

CENTRAL LONDON

■ **Acme Comic Shop**, 391 Coldharbour Lane, London SW9 8LQ (near Brixton tube) Mon-Thur 10-6; Fri 10-7; Sat 9.30-6.30 (imp, back, ind, merch, Brit, u/g, gn, STO, wants lists welcomed) 071-274 6697

■ **Avalon Comics**, 143 Lavender Hill, London SW11. Mon-Thur 10.00-5.45, Fri 10.00-7.00; Sat 9.30-6.00 (imp, back, ind, Brit, gn, STO) 071-924 3609

■ **Comic Showcase**, 76 Neal St, London WC2. Mon - Wed 10-6; Thurs - Sat 10-7; Sun 12-5 (imp, back s-p, merch, ind, u/gs, Brit, gn, cartoon books, original art) 071-240 3664

■ **Fantastic Store**, 166 Portobello Road, London W11. Mon-Fri 10-6.30; Sat 9-7 (imp, back, ind, u/g, gn, Brit, STO) 071 221 3858

■ **Fantastic Store**, 4 Denmark St, London WC2. Mon-Sat 9.30-8; Sun 12-7 (imp, back, ind, u/g, s-p, gn, Brit, STO) 071 240 0480

■ **Forbidden Planet**, 71 New Oxford St, London WC1A 1DG. Mon - Wed + Sat 10-6; Thurs + Fri 10-7 (imp, back s-p, merch, ind, u/gs, Brit, gn, film & tv) 071 379 6042

■ **Gosh!** 39 Great Russell Street, London WC1 (opposite British Museum) 10-6 7 days a week inc Bank Hols. Late Thur-Fri til 7 (imp, back, merch, ind, Brit, frgn, u/g, gn, STO, largest selection of newspaper strip compilations in UK) 071 636 1011

■ **Graphically Speaking**, 120 Holloway Road, London N7. Mon-Wed, Fri & Sat 11-6; Thur 11-7. (imp, back, s-p, merch, u/g, Brit, gn, ind, STO) 071 607 7297

■ **Mega-City Comics**, 18 Inverness Street, Camden Town, London NW1 7HJ. Mon-Sun 10-6; late Thurs + Fri to 7. (imp, back, merch, s-p, ind, Brit, u/g, gn, film-tv fantasy, horror, body art, subculture, STO) 071 485 9320

■ **Platinum Age Comics/Bayswater Books**, 27 Craven Terrace, Lancaster Gate, London W2 3EL. Mon - Sat 11-7 (but sometimes till midnight!) (back, ind, u/g, general 2nd hand books, search service) 071 402 7398

■ **Secondhand Bookshop**, 20 Eldon Street, City of London, EC2M 7LA (outside Liverpool St station). Mon - Fri 10.30-6.00 (comics & graphic novels)

■ **Stateside Comics PLC at Hamleys**, 4th Floor, 188/196 Regent Street, London W1 6BT. Mon-Wed 10-6.30; Thur 10-8; Fri 10-7; Sat 9.30-7; Sun 12-6 (imp, back, ind, gn merch, Brit, STO) 071-287 3097

■ **Stateside Comics PLC at Virgin Megastore**, 14 Oxford Street, London W1N 9FL. Mon-Sat 9.30-8.00; Sun 12.00-7.00 (imp, back, ind, s-p, merch, Brit, gn, STO) 071-637 4066 (fax 071 637 3966)

■ **Stateside Comics PLC at Virgin**, 1st Floor, Virgin Marble Arch, 527-531 Oxford St, London W1. Mon-Wed & Fri 9.30-7.30; Thurs 9.30-8; Sat 9-7.30; Sun 12-7 (imp, back, ind, s-p, merch, Brit, gn, STO) 071-499 8839

■ **Top Ten Soho**, Unit 3, 9-12 St Anne's Court, Soho, London W1V 3AX. Mon - Sat 10 - 6; Sun 12 - 5. (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, frgn, u/g, STO) 071-734 7388

OUTER LONDON

■ **Altered Images**, 6 The Arcade, High St, Sutton, Surrey SM1 1ET. Mon-Wed & Fri 10-5.30; Thurs 10 - 6.30; Sat 9 - 6 (imp, back, ind merch, Brit, gn, STO) 081 770 3815

■ **Andy's Comic Cavern**, Windsor Open Market (back of Woolworth's), Bachelors Acre, Windsor. Sats only 7.30-4.00 (imp, back, ind, gn, STO) Free delivery for Windsor & Slough area. 0753 853381

■ **Atomic Comics**, 1112 High Rd, Chadwell Heath, Romford, Essex RM6 4AH. Mon-Sat 10 -6 excl Fri 10-7 (imp, back, s-p, ind, merch, u/g, Brit, gn, STO, 2nd hand horror fantasy sf bks, original art) 081-597 8547

■ **Calamity Comics**, 160 Station Road, Harrow, Middlesex HA1 2HR. Mon-Wed 10-6, Thurs & Fri 10-7; Sat 9.30-6 (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, u/g, Brit, gn, STO, fantasy tv & film bks & merch, Sega & Nintendo game cartridges, videos) 081-427 3831

■ **Calamity Comics 2**, 90 Queens Road, The Broadway, Watford, Herts WD1 2LA. Mon-Wed 10-5.30; Thurs & Fri 10-7; Sat 9.30-5.30 (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, u/g, Brit, gn, STO, fantasy tv & film bks & merch, videos) 0923 249293

■ **Comic Shack**, 720 High Road, Leytonstone, London E11 3NN. Mon-Thurs 9.30-5.30; Fri & Sat 9.30-5.30; Sun 11-5.30. Also by appointment (imp, back, s-p, merch, u/g, gn, hbks) 081-539 7260 / 081-555 9303 (eve)

■ **Dynamic Comics**, Units 43-47, In Shops Centre, 68 Church Street, Croydon, Surrey CR0 1RB. Mon - Sat 9 - 5.30 (imp, back, ind, s-p, Brit, u/g, gn, STO, merch) phone & fax 081-681 2597

■ **Edge of Forever, The**, 82 b Broadway, Bexleyheath, Kent DA6 7LW. Mon-Wed 10-6; Thurs 10-7; Fri 10-8; Sat 9-6 (imp, back, s-p merch, ind, Brit, gn, STO) 081-298 1363

■ **Gary's Book & Comic Stall**, Site A65, The High Street, Walthamstow, London E17. Thur + Fri 10-5; Sat 8-5.30. Tube: Walthamstow Central (imp, back, s-p, ind, gn, STO, annuals, children's books)

■ **Graphically Speaking**, 49 Roman Road, London E2. Mon-Wed & Sat 11-6; Thur-Fri 11-7; Sun 11-5 (imp, back, s-p, merch, u/g, Brit, ind, STO, gn) 081 983 4602

■ **Krypton Komics**, 252 High Rd, Tottenham, London N15 4AJ (next to Tesco) Mon-Wed 10-6; Thur-Fri 9.30-7; Sat 9-6. Tube: Seven Sisters Road. (imp, back, s-p, ind, gn, STO) 081-801 5378

■ **Readers Dream**, 100A Harlington Road West, Feltham (near Heathrow airport) Middx TW14 0JJ. Mon-Sat 9.30-6.00 excl Wed - closed (imp, back, gn, STO) 081-844 0780

■ **Skinny Melink's**, 66 Loampit Vale, Lewisham, London SE13. Mon-Thur 11- 6.30; Fri 11-7; Sat 10-6.30; Sun 11-4 (imp, back, ind s-p, u/g, gn, STO) 081-318 0499

■ **South London Book Centre**, 18-19 Stockwell Street, Greenwich, London SE10 9JN. Mon-Fri 10-6; Sat & Sun 9am-5.30pm (imp, back, ind, gn, u/g, 2nd hand & new SF-horror-fantasy novels, art bks, bargain bks, remainders) 081 659 9714 or 081 853 2151

■ **Stateside Comics PLC**, 125 East Barnet Road, Barnet, Herts EN4 8RF. Mon-Wed 10.00-7.00; Thur-Fri 10.00-8.00; Sat 9.00-6.00; Sun 10.00-3.00 (later by appointment). (imp, back, s-p, ind, u/g, Brit, frgn, tv-film & fantasy, gn, STO) 081-449 5535

■ **They Walk Among Us**, 30 Union Court, Sheen Rd, Richmond, Surrey TW9 1AA. Mon-Sat 9.30-5.30 excl Fri 9.30-6 (imp, merch, back, ind, Brit, u/g, gn, fantasy/s-f/horror books, sub-culture, STO, wants lists welcomed) Phone/fax 081 948 8476

■ **Time Trek**, 46 High Street, Bromley, Kent BR1 1TR. Mon - Sat 9 - 5.30 (late Thurs to 8) (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, u/g, gn, sf TV & film related merch, STO) 081 313 0677

■ **Westside Comics**, 396 Uxbridge Road, Hayes, Middlesex UB4 0EL. Mon-Sat 10-6, late Thurs-Fri to 6.30. (imp, back, ind, Brit, gn, STO). 081-813 5019

SOUTH EAST

■ **American Comic Enterprise**, 1 Headgate Buildings, St John's Street, Colchester, Essex C02 7AD. Mon - Sat 10.00am - 5.30pm. (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, u/g, Brit, gn, STO, RPG, rock t-shirts) 0206 561 912

■ **Cartoon Shop**, Upper Galleries, Eastgate Shopping Centre, Basildon, Essex. Mon - Wed & Sat 10-6, Thurs & Fri 10-8 (imp, back, s-p, ind, merch, Brit, u/g, gn, RPG) 0268 534194

■ **Cartoon Shop**, 21-22 Talza Way, Lower Ground Floor, Victoria Circus Centre, Southend-on-Sea, Essex. Mon - Sat 9.30 - 5.30 (imp, back, s-p, ind, merch, Brit, u/g, gn, RPG) 0702 613021

■ **The Comic Rocket**, 75a Camden Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent. Mon-Wed 10 - 4.30; Thur-Fri 10 - 7.30; Sat 9.30 - 5.30 (imp, back, ind, s-p, merch, gn, u/g, STO) 0892 518771

■ **Comic Showcase**, 19-20 St Clements St, Oxford. Mon-Sat 10-6 (imp, back, s-p, ind, merch, u/g, gn, STO) 0865-723680

● **Comics and Cards**, 84 St Mary Street, Southampton SO1 1NZ. Mon-Sat 8.00-7.00 (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, u/g, gn, STO) ph/fax: 0703 235324

■ **Excaliber Comics**, 24 The Hornet, Chichester, West Sussex PO19 4JG. Mon - Fri 10.00 - 5.30; Sat 9.00 - 6.00 (imp, back, ind, s-p, gn, merch, Brit, STO, RPG, videos) 0243 537070

■ **Fantastic Store**, 14 Gardner St, Brighton BN1 1PL. Mon-Wed 9.00-6.00; Thur 9.00-8.00; Fri-Sat 9.00-6.00 (imp, back, ind, s-p, u/g, gn, Brit, STO) 0273 25300

■ **Incognito Comic Shop**, 14 Starnes Court, Union St, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1EB. Mon-Fri 10-5.30; Sat 9-5.30 (imp, back, ind, merch, gn, Brit, STO, film/tv related merch) 0622-683642

■ **Siegi's Comics & Bags**, Unit 3, 6 Orange St, Canterbury, Kent. Mon-Sat 9-6 (imp, back, s-p, ind, merch, Brit, gn, STO, tv SF, gum cards, sf memorabilia) 0227 470840

NEW **Volume One Bookshops**, 12a North Street, Guildford, Surrey GU1 4AF. Mon-Sat 8.30-8.00, Sun 11.00-5.00. (imp, ind, gn, sf - fantasy - horror bks & videos) 0483 453412

■ **Whatever Comics**, 2 Burgate Lane, Canterbury, Kent CT1 2HH. Mon - Sat 10.00 - 5.30 (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, u/g, gn, STO, model kits) 0227 453226

● **Wokingham Comics & Trading Cards**, Wokingham Indoor Market, Town Hall, Market Place, Wokingham, Berkshire. Sats only (imp, back, ind, merch, gn, STO) 0734 790441

NEW **Wonderworld**, 133 St Mary Street, Southampton S01 1NX. Tues-Sat 10-6 (imp, back, merch, ind, Brit, gn, STO, FRPG & miniatures) 0703 634658

MIDLANDS

■ **Another World**, 23 Silver Street, Leicester LE1 5EU. Mon - Sat 9.00 - 5.30 (imp, back, ind, merch, Brit, frgn, u/g, gn, STO, RPG, rock t-shirts, alchemy metalware, rock memorabilia) 0533 515266

■ **Another World**, 11 Market Street, Nottingham. Mon - Sat 10.00 - 5.30 (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, frgn, u/g, gn, STO, RPG, rock t-shirts, alchemy metalware, rock memorabilia) 0602 484122

■ **Arrival Comics & Books**, 2 Broad Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1HP. Mon-Thur 10.30-5.30; Fri-Sat 9.30-5.30. (imp, back, s-p, ind, u/g, Brit) 0902-313 660

■ **Bookworm**, Unit 3, 33-39 Tower Street, King's Lynn, Norfolk. Mon-Sat 11.00 - 4.00 (back, ind, u/g, Brit, gn, fantasy & sf, early Penguins, general fic & non-fic, records) 0553 760904/771880

■ **Central City Comics**, 4 Eagle Street, Ipswich, Suffolk IP4 1JB. Mon - Sat 10.00 - 6.00. (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, u/g, Brit, frgn, gn, STO) 0473 233017

■ **Comics Unlimited**, 4 Clair Court, Lime Street, Bedford MK40 1NH. Mon - Sat 9.30 - 5.30. (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, gn, Brit, u/g, STO, RPG) 0234 218984

■ **Comics Unlimited**, Unit 11, The Arcade, Letchworth, Hertfordshire. Mon - Sat 9.30 - 5.30. (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, gn, Brit, u/g, STO, RPG) 0462 480018

■ **Demon Comics**, 12 Berrington Street, Hereford HR4 0BJ. Mon - Sat 9.30 - 5.30. (imp, back, merch, Brit, gn, STO, RPG, t-shirts, sci-fi models) 0432 358355

■ **Fantastic Store**, 6 Suffolk St, Queensway, Birmingham, B1 1LT. Mon-Fri 9.30 - 6.00; Sat 9.00 - 6.00 (imp, back, ind, u/g, s-p, gn, Brit, STO) 021 643 3667

■ **Fantastic Store**, 48 Friar Lane, Nottingham NG1. Mon-Sat 9.00-6.00 (imp, ind, back, u/g, s-p, gn, Brit, STO) 0602 476246

■ **Fantasy World**, 10 Market Square Arcade, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent ST1 1NU. Mon - Sat 9.00 - 5.30 (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, frgn, u/g, gn, STO, RPG, rock t-shirts, alchemy metalware, rock memorabilia) 0782 279294 (fax 0782 202381)

■ **The Final Frontier**, 29 St Nicholas Place, Leicester LE1 4LD. Mon - Fri 9.30 - 5.30; Sat 9.00 - 5.00. (imp, back, ind, Brit, gn, STO) Established 1984 0533 514347

■ **Ground Zero**, 11 Handley Arcade, Mansfield, Notts NG18 1NQ. Mon - Sat 9.00 - 5.00 (imp, back, merch, ind, Brit, STO, accessories) 0623 22017

■ **Magic Labyrinth**, 34-36 Rutland Street, Leicester, LE1 1RD Mon - Sat 9.30 - 6.00. (imp, back, ind, gn, u/g, frgn, merch, s-p, STO, RPG) 0533 518178 fax:0533 518179

■ **Mephisto Comics**, 81 Ber Street, Norwich, NR1 3RD. Mon-Sat 10-6 (imp, back, merch, gn, ind, s-p, u/g, Brit, STO) 0603 762762

■ **New Worlds**, 22 West Parade, Lincoln LN1 1JT. Mon-Sat 9.30-4.30 excl Wed - closed. (comics, bks, mags, sf & fantasy specialists) 0522 530069

■ **Nowhere Comics**, Units 7-8 Guildhall Mews, Goodall St, Walsall. (top end of market) Mon-Thur 10.30-5.30, Fri-Sat 9.30-5.30 (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, u/g, gn, STO, videos) 0922 643352

■ **Nostalgia & Comics**, 14-16 Smallbrook, Queensway, Birmingham. Mon - Thurs 9.15 - 5.45, Fri + Sat 9.15 - 6.00 (imp, back, merch, gn, ind, s-p, u/g, Brit, STO) 021 643 0143

■ **Outer Limits**, 4 The Broadway, Bedford, MK40 2TH. Tues-Sat 9-6, Mon 9-8. (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, u/g, gn, STO, RPG, videos) 0234 358581

■ **Outer Limits**, 12 King Street, Luton LU1 2DP. Mon-Sat 9 - 6; Thurs late night until 8. (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, u/g, gn, STO, RPG, videos) 0582 422082

■ **Outer Limits**, 43 Kettering Road, Northampton. Mon-Sat 10.00 -6.00 (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, u/g, gn, STO, RPG, videos) 0604 601555

■ **Planet X**, 5 London Road, Worcester. Fri-Sat only 10-6 (imp, back, merch, ind, Brit, u/g, STO-monthly) Phone/fax: 0905 355055

■ **Stateside Comics PLC at Virgin**, Virgin Megastore, 1st Floor, 98 Corporation Street, Birmingham B4 6SX. Mon, Wed, Fri, Sat 9-6; Tues 9.30-6; Thurs 9-8. (imp, back, s-p, ind, Brit, tv film & fantasy bks, gn, merch, STO) 021 236 5735 fax: 021 236 8153

■ **Time Zone**, 12 Fish Street (off Butcher Row), Shrewsbury, Shropshire SY1 1UR. Mon - Sat 10.00 - 6.00. (imp, back, merch, ind, gn, STO, RPG) 0743 365192

■ **Zoom Comics!!**, Unit 3 Inshops Centre, 65 South Parade, Sutton Coldfield, Birmingham B72 1QX. Mon-Sat 9.00-5.30 (imp, back, s-p, ind, merch, Brit, u/g, gn, STO) 021 354 7500

NORTH WEST

■ **Arcadia Comics** , 12 Clarence Arcade, Stamford Street, Ashton-under-Lyne, OL67PT (next to Comet). Mon-Sat 10-5.15 (imp, back, ind, horror & sf mags and novels, Doctor Who, Trek, ltd merch, ltd gn, Brit, STO, ltd toys & figures) 061 339 1816

■ **Box 5 News**, 19 Blakey Moor (near Waves), Blackburn, Lancs BB2 1LL. Mon-Sat 7am-6pm (imp, Brit, STO, g-n) 0254 698020

■ **Imagination Station**, Unit 28, Portland Shopping Centre, Botchergate, Carlisle, Cumbria CA1 1NT. Mon - Sat 9 - 5.00 (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, gn, STO)

■ **Odyssey 7**, 21 Hanging Ditch, Corn Exchange Buildings, Manchester M4 3ES. Mon - Sat 9.30am - 5.30pm. (imp, back, sf-fantasy-horror books, postcards, videos, badges, soundtracks, stills, LF filmbooks, Star Trek, Doctor Who) 061 832 7044

■ **Odyssey 7**, Precinct Centre, Oxford Road, Manchester M13 9RN. Mon - Sat 9.30am - 5.30pm (imp, back, sf-fantasy-horror novels, postcards, posters, badges, stills, LF film books, Trek, Dr Who, etc) 061 273 6666

■ **Planet Eater**, 5-7 Union Street Southport, Lancs PR9 0QF Mon - Sat: 9 - 6 Sun: 12-4 (imp, back, merch, model kits, Trek, action figures, STO) 0704 548629

■ **Sartori Comics**, The Assembly Rooms, King Street, Lancaster. Thurs-Sat 10.00 - 4.30pm (imp, back, merch, ind, Brit, gn, STO) 0524 733943 (after 6pm)

■ **Thunderbooks**, 332 Lytham Rd, Blackpool. 10-5.30 Tues, Thurs-Sat all year; Mon-Sun in season (closed Wed). Out of season open Wed, closed Sun-Mon. (imp, s-p, back, merch, ind, limited u/g, Brit, frgn, kits, gn, t-shirts, media collectors' items) 0253-48321

■ **Thunderbooks II**, 116 Friargate, Preston, Lancs. Mon-Sat 9.30-5.30 (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, limited u/g, Brit, frgn, gn, kits, t-shirts, media collectors' items) 0772-204287

■ **The Time Tunnel**, 66 Edleston Road, Crewe, Cheshire CW2 7HD. Mon - Sat 10.00am - 5.30pm excl Weds. (imp, back, merch, ind, Brit, gn, model kits, toys, action figures, Doctor Who, Star Trek)

■ **Worlds Apart**, Acorn Gallery, 16 Newington (city centre), Liverpool L1 4ED. Mon - Sat (excl Wed) 10-6; Wed 12-6 (imp, back, ind, merch, s-p, u/g, Brit, gn, STO, fantasy film mags) 051 707 0839

NORTH EAST

■ **Armadillo**, 16-22 Anlaby Road, Hull, North Humberside HU1 2PA. Mon-Sat 10-6; late Thur-Fri to 8 (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, gn, u/g, STO, videos, ppbks) 0482 29787

■ **Asgard Books & Comics**, 78a Westborough, Scarborough, YO11 1TP. Mon-Sat 10-6; Sun 12-6 (imp, back, RPG, STO, video consoles, soft-hardware, discounts available) 0723 500288

■ **Books N' Comics**, Unit 15, Forbes Building, Linthorpe Road, Middlesborough, Cleveland TS1 4AW. Mon-Sat 10-5.30 (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, u/g, gn, STO, fantasy gn, film mags, Dr Who, Trek) 0642 249143

■ **Dells Comic & Book Stalls**, 129 Kirkgate Market, Bradford 1. Mon-Sat 9-5 excl Wed 9-3 (imp, back, merch, ind, gn, STO, horror masks, tv fantasy mags) 0274 390 541

■ **Hysteria Comics**, Unit 2, The Arches, Park Road, Hartlepool, Cleveland TS24 7PH. Mon-Sat 9-5 limp, back, s-p, ind, merch, u/g, gn, STO, film mags) 0429 236952

■ **Nu Earth Comics**, 4 Davygate Centre, York Y01 2SU. Mon - Fri 10 - 5.30; Sat 9 - 5.30 (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, u/g, Brit, gn, STO, RPG, art bks) 0904 611 461

■ **Nostalgia & Comics**, 12 Matilda, off the Moor, Sheffield, Yorkshire. Mon - Fri 10.00 - 6.00; Sat 9.15 - 5.30 (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, u/g, gn, original art, model kits, sf & fantasy gns, horror magazines, newspaper strip compilations) 0742 769475

■ **Odyssey**, 6 Harrison Street, off Vicar Lane, Leeds LS1 6PA. Mon - Sat 9.30 - 5.30 (imp, back, LF film books, sf - fantasy - horror bks, posters, postcards, badges, stills, Star Trek, Doctor Who, etc) 0532 426 325

■ **Sheffield Space Centre**, 33 The Wicker, Sheffield, Yorks. Mon - Sat 10.00 - 5.00 excl Wed. (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, gn, STO, Star Trek items) 0742 758905

■ **Skyrack Book Service**, 51 The Superstore, Merrion Centre, Leeds LS2 8LY. Yorkshire. Mon - Sat 9.30am - 5pm; excl Weds: 9.30am - 1pm. (imp, back, ind, Brit, STO, SF hbk gn & magazines - many pulps) Establ 1965.

■ **The Last Picture Show**, 40 The Lanes, The Oasis, Meadowhall Centre, Sheffield S9 1EP. Mon-Thur 10-8, Fri 10-9, Sat 9-7, Sun 12-5. (imp, back, merch, ind, Brit, gn, STO, RPG, film-rock memorabilia) 0742 569604

■ **Voyager One**, 87 Parkgate Chambers, Borough Road, Darlington, Co. Durham DL1 1RR. Mon-Sat 10-5 excl Weds closed. (imp, back, ind, gn, STO) 0325 382037

WEST COUNTRY

■ **Comics & CDs**, 143 Gloucester Road, Bristol. Mon - Sat 9.00 - 7.00. (imp, back, ind, gn, merch, STO, RPG, u/g, Brit, original art) 0272 244655

■ **Floppy Tongue Comics**, 96 Fisherton Street, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP2 7QY. Mon-Fri 11.30-5.30; Sat 9-5.30 (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, u/g, gn, STO) 0722 331107

■ **The Hobbit Hole**, 9 Commercial Road, Gloucester. Mon 12-5.30; Tues-Sat 10-5.30. (imp, back, merch, ind, Brit, frgn, gn, STO, T-shirts, film-tv mags + merch) 0452 309 533

■ **Joy's Comics**, 25 High East Street, Dorchester, Dorset DT1 1EZ. Mon - Sun 7.30 - 6. (imp back, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, frgn, u/g, gn) 0305 269737 (after 6pm 833304)

■ **Kathies Comics**, 20 Market Avenue, Plymouth, PL1 1PH. Mon - Fri 9.30 - 5.30; Sat 9.00 - 5.30. (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, gn, STO) 0752 257800

■ **Maelstrom Comics** (within Apostrophe Records), 66 Bedminster Parade, Bedminster, Bristol. Mon-Sat 10-6. (imp, back, s-p, small merch, ind, u/g, gn, STO) 0272 633523

■ **Purple Haze**, 58 Eastlake Walk, Drake Circus, Plymouth, PL1 1BX (imp, back, ind, merch, Brit, u/g, gn, STO) 0752 254136

■ **Wonderworld**, 803 Christchurch Road, Boscombe, Bournemouth, Dorset BH7 6AP. Tues-Sat 10-6 (imp, back, merch, ind, Brit, gn, STO, FRPG & miniatures, Games Workshop specialist stockist) 0202 422 964

■ **Wonderworld**, 25 Albert Road, Southsea, Portsmouth PO5 3SQ. Tues-Sat 10-2, 3-6. (imp, back, ind, merch, Brit, gn, STO, FRPG & miniatures) 0705 833 272

ISLE OF WIGHT

■ **Astounding Comics**, 61 Pyle Street, Newport, Isle of Wight PO30 1UL. Mon - Sat 9.30 - 5.30. (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, gn, STO, RPG, videos) 0983 525320

WALES

■ **Cardiff Fantasy Centre**, 1st Floor, Jacobs Market, West Canal Wharf, Cardiff. Sats only 9.30-5 (imp, back s-p, merch, ind, gn, STO, videos; establ 12 yrs) 0222 563005

■ **Comix Shoppe**, 13 Shoppers Walk, Swansea SA1 3AY. Mon-Fri 10-5, Sat 10-5.30. (imp, back, merch, ind, Brit, u/g, gn, film/tv mags, RPG, Games Workshop stockists) 0792 642097

■ **Forbidden Planet**, 5 Duke Street, Cardiff. Mon - Sat 10.00 - 5.30 excl Thurs 10.00 - 6.30. (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, u/g, Brit, frgn, gn, STO) 0222 228885

■ **Journey into Mystery**, The Emporium, 34 Castle Arcade, Cardiff. Tues - Fri 11.00 - 5.30; Sat 9.00 - 5.30 (imp, back, s-p, ind, u/g, gn, STO, indie records & cds)

■ **Negative Zone**, Provision Market Gallery, High Street, Newport, Gwent NP9 1DD. Mon - Sat 9.00am - 5.00pm. (imp, back, s-p, ind, gn, Brit, STO) 0633 222159

SCOTLAND

■ **The Adventure Zone**, 280 High St, Glasgow G4 0QR. Mon-Wed 9.30-6, Thurs 9.30-7, Fri-Sat 9.30-6, Sun 10-5 (imp, back, ind, Brit, u/g, STO, frgn, s-p, s-f bks, tv-related supplies, videos, models, memorabilia, Who, Trek, etc 041-946 7607 (after 7pm)

■ **AKA Books & Comics**, 25 Parnie Street, Glasgow G1 5RJ. Mon-Sat 10-5; Sun 12-5 (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, u/g, Brit, frgn, gn) 041 552 6692

■ **Black Hole Comic Shop**, The Market Hall, Wellgate Centre, Dundee. Mon - Sat 9.00 - 5.30 (imp, back, ind, u/g, STO) 0382 21037

■ **City Centre Comics**, 31-35 Parnie St, Glasgow G1. Mon-Sat 10.00-5.30, Sun 12-5. (back issues only) 041 552 6692 or 041-632 2786 after 6pm

■ **Earth 2 Comics**, Argyle Shopping Centre, 28 Argyle St, Glasgow G2 8AD. Mon-Fri 10.00-5.00; Sat 10-5.30. (back, gn, ind, merch) 041-647 6810 (after 6pm)

■ **Forbidden Planet**, 2 - 3 Teviot Place, Edinburgh, EH1 2QZ. Mon - Sat 10.00 - 5.30, excl Thurs till 6.30. (imp, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, frgn, gn, STO) 031-225 8613

■ **Forbidden Planet**, 168 Buchanan Street, Glasgow G1 2LW. Mon - Wed 10 - 5.30; Thurs + Fri 10 - 6; Sat 10 - 5.30. (imp, back, s-p, ind, merch, u/g, Brit, gn, STO) 041 331 1215

■ **Future Shock**, 89 Byres Road, Partick, Glasgow G11. Mon-Sat 10-6; Sun 1-5 (imp, back, merch, ind, u/g, Brit, gn, STO, SF & horror gn & hbk, film bks & mags, artwork, jewellery) 041 339 8184

■ **Kaos Komics and Kollectables**, 19 Diamond Street, Aberdeen AB1 1QU. Mon-Sat 10-6; Thurs till 8; Sun 12-4 (imp, back, s-p, ind, Brit, gn, STO, jewellery, crystals, t-shirts) 0224 620212

■ **Plan 9 Comics**, 9 Rosemount Viaduct, Aberdeen AB1 1NE. Mon - Sat 9.30 - 5.30 (Thurs till 8), Sun 1 - 5. (imp, back, merch, ind, Brit, u/g, gn, RPG specialist, board games, figures, STO) 0224 624467

■ **Stateside Comics PLC at Virgin**, 28-32 Union Street, Glasgow, G2 7LZ. Mon, Wed, Fri & Sat 9-6; Tues 9.30-6; Thurs 9-7; Sun 12-5.30. (imp, back, ind, s-p, merch, Brit, gn, STO) 041 221 2915; Fax 041 221 2916

NORTHERN IRELAND

■ **Dark Horizons**, 30a Chichester Street, Belfast BT1 4LD (near City Hall) Mon-Sat 10-5.30 (imp, back, s-p, ind, Brit, u/g, gn, STO, subculture, film mags) 0232-233808

■ **Talisman Comics**, 47 Winetavern Street, Belfast BT1 1JQ Mon - Sat 9.30 - 5.30. (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, u/g, gn, STO) 0232-438744

CHANNEL ISLANDS

■ **Music & Video Exchange**, 11a La Motte Street, St Helier, Jersey. Mon - Sat 10.00 - 6.00 (back, ind, Brit, u/g, records, videos, hi-fi) 0534 36606

OVER 20 YEARS OF MARTS AND MARKETPLACES

COMICBOOK MARKETPLACE

1994 SUNDAY JANUARY 9

CAMDEN CENTRE BIDBOROUGH ST LONDON WC1

The Comicbook Marketplace is held every two months at the Camden Centre and is just a few minutes walk from King's Cross, St. Pancras and Euston Stations.

There are more than ninety tables with over 200,000 comicbooks and magazines on sale, including S.F., fantasy, film and T.V. related items, from Britain's top dealers.

Sandwiches, rolls, snacks and hot and cold drinks are available throughout the day from the refreshment area located in the dealers room.

How to get there: Bus: 10, 14, 30, 45, 63, 73, 214 or 259 to King's Cross or Camden Town Hall. Underground: Circle, Metropolitan, Northern, Piccadilly or Victoria Line to King's Cross.

DOORS OPEN MID-DAY
ADMISSION FREE

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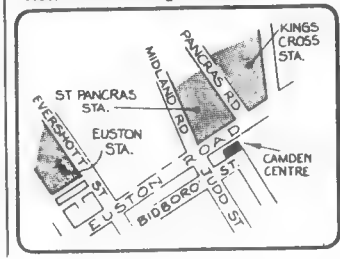

THERE WILL BE A COMICBOOK MARKETPLACE ON THE FOLLOWING DATES IN 1994:
JANUARY 9th, MARCH 20th, MAY 22nd, JULY 24th, OCTOBER 30th.

RETAILERS:

Comics International's Retail Index is the industry's main reference source for publishers, journalists, distributors, creators and collectors. Through it, your store can reach an audience of over 25,000 a month for only £5.00 per insertion (plus VAT).

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FLIGHTS OF FANTASY

AUCTIONEERS OF COMIC BOOKS & RELATED MERCHANDISE

WINTER 1993 AUCTION

Closing Date for Bids: 10th DECEMBER 1993

BIDDING INFORMATION & INSTRUCTIONS

1: You may bid either by letter or telephone although written confirmation of telephone bids will be required.

Telephone bids will be accepted from 11.00am to 4.00pm Monday to Friday on **081-298 1363;** written bids and confirmations of telephone bids should be sent to **Flights of Fantasy** at **82b Broadway, Bexleyheath, Kent DA6 7LW.**

2: Please ensure that you quote lot number & description for each lot you are bidding on.

3: All bids must be postmarked not later than the closing date indicated. Late bids will not be accepted.

4: If possible, please provide a telephone number where you can be contacted should the need arise.

5: This is a silent auction and current high bids will not be disclosed.

6: Bidding may be by one of two methods -

a) A single price indicating the amount you are willing to pay for the lot(s) in question.

In this case, if yours is the highest bid, that will be the amount you pay.

b) A spread indicating the minimum and the maximum prices you are willing to pay for the lot(s) in question.

In this instance, we will bid on your behalf (in the increments shown at 7 below) against other interested parties to the maximum you have indicated.

7: Bidding should be in the following increments -

up to £50.....£1	£51 to £100.....£2
£101 to £250.....£5	£251 to £500.....£10
£501 to £1,000.....£20	£1,001 up.....£25

8: Minimum bid is £5.00.

9: Anticipated selling prices are shown after each lot. Lots may sell for more or less than the figures given.

10: Reserve price lots are indicated although the actual reserves are not. Should bidding on such lots fail to reach the reserve price the lot(s) will be withdrawn.

11: Successful bidders will be notified within one week of the closing date for bids. Payment will be required within 10 days of confirmation of success.

12: Postage and insurance at cost (with a minimum of £1.00) will be added to on all successful bids.

13: In fairness to all bidders, all successful bids must be honoured.

14: Please telephone **081-298 1363** from 11.00am to 4.00pm Monday to Friday should you require any clarification or further information. We will be pleased to assist you.

All items are graded very strictly and are in a minimum of very fine condition unless otherwise stated. Usual grading terms (vfn = very fine, fn = fine, vg = very good, g = good, f = fair, p = poor but complete) with the addition of the following abbreviations: *sl = slight; hvy = heavy; B&W = black and white interior pages; bkshp stmp = book shop stamp; cnr knk = corner knocked; cntr pgs ls = centre pages loose; crs bcvr = creased back cover; crs cvr = creased cover; dtchd cover = detached cover (completely off staples); lbl on cvr = (price) label on cover; lbl stn bcvr = (price) label stain on back cover; lbl stn cvr = (price) label stain on cover; ls cvr = loose cover (generally off one staple); mkd bcvr = marked back cover; mkd cvr = marked cover; po bcvr = piece out of back cover; po cvr = piece out of front cover; rld spn = rolled spine; rusty stpls = rusty staples; splt spn = split spine; stng = staining; tpd spine = taped spine; trn bcvr = torn back cover; trn cvr = torn cover; wro bcvr = writing on back cover; wro cvr = writing on cover; wtr bnt = water bent.* An asterisk (*) indicates that there is a distributor's price stamp on the front cover. **Unless otherwise stated, no multiple lot contains duplicates.**

LOTS

PREMIUM COMICS

All comics in this section are produced (by the publishers) as retailer incentives and, as such, can be considered limited editions.

1: *PLATINUM EDITION* - **ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN #500** [DC] ***(£55-60)***

2: COMICS' GREATEST WORLD - GOLDEN CITY COLLECTOR'S PACK [Dark Horse] includes gold edition of *Rebel* plus an illustrated plate featuring Catalyst: Agents of Change and an uncut sheet of *Golden City* bookmarks; all contained in an illustrated envelope. ***(£25-27)***

3: *GOLD EDITION* - **WILDC.A.T.S: COVERT ACTION TEAMS #1** [Image] ***(£25-30)***

4: *PLATINUM EDITION* - **BLACK ORCHID #1** [DC] ***(£26-30)***

5: *PLATINUM/EMBOSSED EDITION* - **ALIENS/PREDATOR: THE DEADLIEST OF THE SPECIES #1** [Dark Horse] ***(£22-25)***

6: *GOLD EDITION* - **DEATHMATE: BLUE** [Image/Valiant] ***(£25-28)***

7: *SPECIAL LIMITED EDITION* - **COMICS' GREATEST WORLD: GOLDEN CITY COLLECTION** [Dark Horse] ***(£18-22)***

8: *PLATINUM EDITION* - **DEATH: THE HIGH COST OF LIVING #1** [DC] ***(£30-33)***

9: *PLATINUM EDITION* - **CYBERRAD #1** [Continuity] ***(£18-20)***

10: *GOLD EDITION* - **DARKER IMAGE #1** [Image] ***(£23-25)***

11: *PLATINUM EDITION* - **JONAH HEX: TWO-GUN MOJO #1** [DC/Vertigo] ***(£21-24)***

12: *GOLD EDITION* - **DEATHMATE: PROLOGUE** [Image/Valiant] ***(£25-28)***

13: *PLATINUM EDITION* - **THE EXTREMIST #1** [DC/Vertigo] ***(£12-16)***

14: *SPECIAL LIMITED EDITION* - **COMICS' GREATEST WORLD: ARCADIA COLLECTION** [Dark Horse] ***(£18-22)***

15: *PLATINUM EDITION* - **ROBOCOP VERSUS THE TERMINATOR** [Dark Horse] Complete with uncut bookmarks (Walt Simonson art) and two limited edition/numbered lithographs (one with Walt Simonson art, the other with Frank Miller art). Still sealed in the original envelope. ***(£18-20)***

16: *SIGNED EDITION* - **WARRIORS OF PLASM #1** [Defiant] Signed in silver by Jim Shooter (vfn-) ***(£12-15)***

17: *GOLD EDITION* - **DEATHMATE: YELLOW** [Image/Valiant] ***(£25-28)***

18: *GLOW IN THE DARK EDITION* - **THE MAXX #1** [Image] ***(£12-15)***

19: *ASHCAN EDITION* - **DINOSAURS FOR HIRE** (Malibu) - Signed by creator/writer Tom Mason; produced exclusively for the Great Eastern Convention, New York City 22nd-24th January 1993. ***(£12-15)***

20: *GOLD EDITION* - **THE SECOND LIFE OF DOCTOR MIRAGE #1** [Valiant] ***(£22-25)***

continued ⟶

82b Broadway, Bexleyheath, Kent DA6 7LW
Telephone: 081-298 1363

166: AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #34 (fn-) - 3rd appearance of Kraven the Hunter. *(£14-17)*

167: DREADSTAR #1-13 - all are VFN or better except **#2** (v sl rld spn), **#6** (sl rld spn), **#8** (v sl mkd cvr) & **#13** (v sl mkd bcvr). **#1-4** & **#9-13** - Jim Starlin story/art, **#5** & **#8** - Jim Starlin story/pencils, **#6** & **#7** - inc Jim Starlin story/pencils & Berni Wrightson story/art. *(£8-12)*

168: DAREDEVIL #2 (g) - 2nd appearance of Electro. *(£28-34)*

169: UNCANNY X-MEN #201 - Whilce Portacio inks (1st work on the X-Men; intro the baby Nathan (Cable?) Summers. *(£7-10)*

170: 4 x FANTASTIC FOUR - #24 (g), **#37** (f/*), **#43** (g) & **#65** (f). *(£15-18)*

171: 6 x CAPTAIN AMERICA - #114 (fn+/*); **#122** (fn+/*); **#126** (fn/*); **#127** (fn/*); **#130** (fn/*) & **#201** *(£7-10)*

172: AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #14 (f) - intro the Green Goblin. *(£25-30)*

173: UNCANNY X-MEN #7 (f) - intro Cerebro. *(£7-10)*

174: FANTASTIC FOUR #4 (p/ad page missing) - 1st Silver Age appearance of the Sub-Mariner. *(£8-10)*

175: SILVER SURFER [1968] #3 (fn-/*) - intro Mephisto. *(£18-23)*

176: AVENGERS #3 (f/restpld) *(£9-12)*

177: UNCANNY X-MEN #6 (g/) *(£12-15)*

178: AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #17 (g) - 2nd appearance of the Green Goblin. *(£18-20)*

179: 10 x THOR - #150 (vg+/*); **#151** (fn/v sl po bcvr/*); **#158** (fn/lbl on cvr/*); **#173** (fn+/hvy rld spn); **#193** (fn/4.5" trn cvr); **#194** ; **#250**; **#250** (fn+); **#251** (fn+) & **#254** (fn+) *(£15-20)*

180: AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #15 (g/restpld/bkshp stmp) - intro Kraven the Hunter. *(£18-22)*

181: CAPTAIN AMERICA #111 (fn+/*) - Steranko story/pencils. *(£10-12)*

182: UNCANNY X-MEN #6 (vg-) *(£17-20)*

183: AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #129 (fn+/v hvy wtr bnt) - intro the Punisher. *(£12-15)*

184: SILVER SURFER [1968] #5 (vg+/*) *(£12-16)*

185: UNCANNY X-MEN #120 - John Byrne pencils, intro Alpha Flight (cameo). *(£8-10)*

186: AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #16 (g/restpld/bkshp stmp on cvr & splsh pg) - Daredevil vs Spider-Man. *(£12-15)*

187: 4 x TALES TO ASTONISH - #71 (p); **#73** (f); **#87** (vg+) & **#101** (fn/*) *(£10-12)*

188: UNCANNY X-MEN #10 (vg-/*) - 1st Silver Age appearance of Ka-Zar. *(£12-15)*

189: AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #298 - Todd McFarlane art; intro Venom (cameo); intro Chance *(£10-12)*

190: AVENGERS #98 - Barry Smith pencils. *((£10-12)*

191: 4 x UNCANNY X-MEN - #202 & **#203**: John Romita jnr/Al Williamson art; *Secret Wars* crossover; **#204**: Whilce Portacio inks; **#205**: Barry Windsor-Smith art. *(£12-14)*

192: SILVER SURFER [1968] #6 (vg-) - inc Frank Brunner inks. *(£8-10)*

193: UNCANNY X-MEN #28 (vg+) - intro Banshee. *(£8-11)*

194: PUNISHER #1 [1987 - ongoing series] *(£9-12)*

195:LONGSHOT (COMPLETE MINI SERIES) - Art Adams/Whilce Portacio art throughout. All are VFN or better except: **#1** (fn), intro Longshot; **#4** (fn+) & **#6** (vfn-). *(£25-30)*

196: AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #12 (f) - 3rd appearance of Dr Octopus. *(£10-12)*

197: 3 x CAPTAIN AMERICA - #103 (fn+/*); **#108** (fn/sl wro bcvr/*) & **#109** (vfn-/*). *(£20-25)*

198: 4 x UNCANNY X-MEN - #4 (p) - intro Quicksilver and the Scarlet Witch, intro the Brotherhood of Evil Mutants, **#5** (f/restpld), **#11** (p/restpld) - intro the Stranger & **#13** (f) - 1st full appearance of the Juggernaut. *(£12-15)*

199: TALES OF SUSPENSE #51 (g) - intro the Scarecrow. *(£6-9)*

200: UNCANNY X-MEN #15 (g) - origin of the Beast. *(£6-9)*

201: POWER MAN #66 (fn+) - 2nd appearance of Sabretooth. *(£8-10)*

202: 2 x JOURNEY INTO MYSTERY - #119 (f) & **#120** (vg+/*) plus **2 x THOR - #129** (vg+/tpd spn & **#130** (vg+) *(£10-15)*

203: UNCANNY X-MEN #1 (f) - intro & origin of the X-Men. *(£55-60)*

204: INCREDIBLE HULK #102 (fn+/*) - 1st issue of new series, origin retold. *(£40-45)*

205: 3 x EXCALIBUR - Excalibur: The Sword is Drawn [1st print] - Alan Davis/Paul Neary art, intro Excalibur (the British X-Men); **#1** - Alan Davis/Paul Neary art & **Excalibur: The Possession**. *(£6-9)*

206: MARVEL TEAM-UP #3 (vg+) - Spider-Man & Morbius. *(£8-10)*

207: 5 x UNCANNY X-MEN - #206-208 - John Romita jnr pencils; **#209** - John Romita jnr/P. Craig Russell art; **#210** (v sl crsd cvr/v sl crsd bcvr) - John Romita jnr pencils, *Mutant Massacre* crossover. *(£12-15)*

208: AVENGERS #95 (fn+) - Neal Adams pencils. *(£6-8)*

209: 4 x TALES TO ASTONISH - #53 (f), **#54** (f/restpld), **#60** (f/restpld) - Incredible Hulk stories begin & **#61** (f/restpld). *(£12-16)*

210: UNCANNY X-MEN #13 (vg-) - 1st full appearance of the Juggernaut. *(£10-12)*

211: RISE OF THE MIDNIGHT SONS (COMPLETE CROSSOVER) - **Darkhold** #1, **Ghost Rider** #28 & #31, **Ghost Rider & Blaze: Spirits of Vengeance** #1, **Morbius** #1 & **Nightstalkers** #1. All still factory sealed and complete with posters. *(£8-11)*

212: AVENGERS #58 (fn/*) - origin of the Vision. *(£6-8)*

213: DAREDEVIL #1 (g) - intro & origin of Daredevil. *(£80-90)*

214: AVENGERS #11 (vg/wro splsh pg/*) *(£20-23)*

215: JOURNEY INTO MYSTERY #83 (p) - intro & origin of Thor. *(£25-30)*

216: UNCANNY X-MEN #12 (vg+) - origin of Professor X, intro & origin of the Juggernaut. *(£20-23)*

217: CAPTAIN AMERICA #101 (fn+/*) *(£10-12)*

218: AVENGERS #57 (fn-/*) - intro the Vision. *(£8-10)*

MAGAZINES

All items in this section have B&W interiors unless otherwise stated.

219: MARVEL PREVIEW #2 [Marvel] (fn+) - origin of the Punisher; intro Dominic Fortune - Howard Chaykin art. *(£20-25)*

220: 18 x CREEPY [Warren] - **#1** (fn/sl wro bcvr) - inc Frank Frazetta art, **#3** (vg+/cvr dtchd/tpd spn), **#4** (vg+), **#7** (vg) - inc Frank Frazetta art, **#20** (f), **#23** (fn+/bkshp stmp/sl wro cvr) - inc Alex Toth art **#29** (vg+/crsd/bkshp stmp) - inc Jeff Jones art, **#33** (g), **#34** (vg+), **#38** (vg+) - inc Wally Wood art, **#38** (g) - inc Wally Wood story/art, **#65** (fn), **#71** (vg+), **#76** (vg) inc Alex Toth art, **#78** (fn) - inc Alex Toth story/art, **#81** (vg+) - inc Paul Neary art, **#93** (fn/sl wro bcvr) & **#100** (fn+/sl wro cvr) - inc Alex Nino art plus **2 x EERIE - #21** (fn/bkshp stmp & wro cvr) & **#29** (vg) *(£12-16)*

221: SAVAGE TALES #1 [1971] (fn-) - inc *Conan* - Barry Smith art, *Man-Thing* - Gray Morrow art, intro Man-Thing, *Ka-Zar* plus **SAVAGE TALES #2 [1971]** (fn-) - inc *Conan* - Barry Smith art, *Kull* - Berni Wrightson art plus Gray Morrow art & Frank Brunner illo's. *(£10-14)*

222: 2 x THE SPIRIT [Warren] - **#4** (fn-) & **#6** (fn-) plus **4 x THE SPIRIT** [Kitchen Sink] - **#25** (vfn-), **#28**, **#29** & **#30** (fn+) - *The Spirit Jam* - inc art by Richard Corben, Marshall Rogers, Harvey Kurtzman & Ken Steacy and pencils by Frank Miller, Brent Anderson, Bill Sienkiewicz, Brian Bolland & John Byrne. *(£8-10)*

223: 10 x VAMPIRELLA [Warren] - **#11** (fn+), **#12** (vg+) - inc Wally Wood story/art & Jeff Jones story/art, **#13** (fn-), **#14** (vg-) - inc Mike Ploog art, **#15** (vg+), **#16** (vfn-), **#17** (fn+), **#18** (fn+), **#19** (fn) - inc Wally Wood story/art & Neal Adams pencils & **#20** (fn). Esteban Maroto art in **#14**, **#16**, **#17**, **#18** & **#20**. *(£17-20)*

224: 14 x MARVEL PREVIEW [Marvel] - **#1** (fn-) - *Man Gods from beyond the Stars*, inc Alex Nino art, **#5** (vg+) - *Sherlock Holmes*, **#7** (vfn-) - *Satana*, inc Keith Giffen art **#8** (fn) - *Legion of Monsters*, **#9** (fn) - *Man-God*, **#10** (fn-) - *Thor*, inc Jim Starlin pencils **#12** (fn-) - *Haunt of Horror*, inc Mike Kaluta art **#13** (fn+) - *UFO Connection*, **#14** (fn-) - *Starlord*, **#15** (fn-) - *Starlord*, **#16** (vg+) - *Masters of Terror*, **#17** (fn-) - *Blackmark*, **#21** (fn-) - *Moon Knight*, inc Bill Sienkiewicz pencils & **#24** (fn+) - intro *Paradox* plus **7 x BIZARRE ADVENTURES** [Marvel] - **#25** (vfn-/v sl po cvr) - *Lethal Ladies*, inc art by Paul Gulacy, Michael Golden & Marshall Rogers, **#27**(fn) - *X-Men*, inc George Perez pencils, **#28** (fn+) - *Unlikely Heroes*, inc Frank Miller story/art, Neal Adams art, Michael Golden pencils **#29**(fn) - *Horror*, inc Walt Simonson art, intro Greenberg the Vampire, **#31** (vfn-) - *Violence*, inc art by Frank Miller & Bill Sienkiewicz, John Byrne story/art **#32** (vfn-) - *Gods*, inc John Bolton art & **#33** (fn-) - *Horror*. *(£15-18)*

225: VAMPIRELLA #1 [Warren] (vg+) - inc Neal Adams art. *(£16-20)*

226: 7 x VAMPIRELLA [Warren] - **#2** (fn-), **#4** (fn-), **#5** (fn) - inc Jeff Jones story/art, **#6** (fn), **#7** (vfn-), **#8** (vg+) & **#24** (fn-) - inc Esteban Maroto art. *(£20-24)*

227: 7 x WILL EISNER'S QUARTERLY [Kitchen Sink] - **#1**, **#2** & **#4-8**. All are VFN or better except **#1** (fn/cvr dtchd), **#2** (vfn-), **#6** (crsd bcvr). *(£10-12)*

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REVIEWS

It is the intention of ***Comics International*** *to help you, the comic reader, keep abreast of the entire range of titles currently available through direct sale specialist shops, good newsagents and mail order companies. Few retailers allow you to read all titles in stock before choosing your purchases; our reviews are designed to counter this and draw your attention to comics you might otherwise ignore. Naturally, this section should be of even greater benefit to readers who rely solely on mail order, as they only discover the quality of a new title after purchase.*

Review codes: *General competitive performance of a title is measured on a scale of 1 to 10. A specific issue's quality, as measured against previous issues: <- - -> to <+ + +>.*

Two ratings are used for the sake of detailed and fair coverage. The number following each review (on a scale of 1 to 10) is a quality comparison with other ***similar*** *titles currently being published. We make no attempt to compare* ***Love & Rockets*** *to* ***Batman****, but review each within the context of its own genre.*

The individual issue is also rated within the confines of its previous issues. Hence a comparatively dull title may get a low number but a high rating for the specific issue reviewed (ranging from <-> to <+ + +>) if there has been a notable improvement.

Reviews Editor: Sarah Bolesworth

Reviewing panel: Mike Graney (MG), Phil Hall (PH), Rol Hirst (RH) Rol Hirst (RH), Mike Kidson (MK), Skinny Melink (SM), Peter C. Phillips (PCP) and David Pollack (DP)

DC COMICS

Action Comics 693 <-> (Stern & Guice + Rodier) The Eradicator is reborn with the addition of Dr David Connor's personality (don't make *him* angry). Cliched super-vigilante fodder, enlivened only by a couple of intriguing subplots. Guice's art seems stiff and unnatural. (RH) 4

Adventures of Superman Annual 5 (Kesel & Grummett + Hazlewood + Hannigan + Pepoy) A teenager arrives in Metropolis hoping to spark her own metagene and acquire super powers. A top-shelf *Bloodlines* chapter. (PCP) 8

Adventures of Superman 507 <-> (Kesel & Kitson + McCarthy) An old Byrne creation — Bloodsport — returns with a new spin as a racist, homophobic bigot, giving Superman the excuse (as if he needed it) to lecture on the importance of tolerance. Heavy handed, but with nice art from the new team. (RH) 7

<+ -> Bloodsport's back and he isn't the same man Clark Kent's alter ego faced in Superman 4. This time the character is an extreme racist, killing everyone and anything that gets in his way. Violent issue with a cliffhanger ending. (PH) 7

Animal Man 65 <-> (Delano & Simpson) Another slow, turgid issue. Delano has never seemed comfortable or focused on this title, while guest artist Will Simpson still seems weak when it comes to male faces. (SM) 5

<+ -> Buddy and Ellen explore the lifeweb while Cliff and his girlfriend discover that they can't consumate their relationship. A sensitive and mature handling of the issues around human sexuality. (RH) 8

Batman 501 <+ -> (Moench & Manley) An armoured assassin is hired by the mob to take out the new Batman. Routine crime drama in a '90s mold. (PCP) 4

Batman 502 <+ -> (Moench & Manley) Oh dear. How much worse can this get? Batman battles another lethal armour-suited villain, sheds mucho blood and creates more carnage. At least Gordon is coming to his senses. (RH) 2

Batman: Legends of the Dark Knight 54 <+ -> (Raspler & Mignola) Batman tracks down a serial killer to a cemetery where he falls prey to a Victorian ghoul. Mignola's moody artwork is as brilliant as always, but a potentially outstanding issue is sabotaged by the biggest plotting cop-out possible — a *was it a dream?* ending. (MG) 6

Batman: Legends of the Dark Knight Annual 3 (O'Neil & various) Two brothers — one a cop, one a killer — switch roles following an encounter with the alien parasites. The over-extended narrative proves disappointing, as does the mish-mash of artistic talent — Manley, Morrow and McDonnell. (PCP) 4

Batman: Legends of the Dark Knight Halloween Special (Loeb & Sale) This story, told in 80 pages, could have easily been done in 24 — but allows DC to charge another arm and a leg for the latest Batman/Scarecrow confrontation. Still, Sale's art is wonderfully spooky, with dialogue that pays playful tribute to a number of classic films. (RH) 6

Batman/Houdini: The Devil's Workshop (Chaykin + Moore & Chiarello) The subdued colours of Chiarello's masterful paintings combine with an unusually straightforward, unpretentious story from Chaykin, making this one-shot a real treat. (SM) 9

Routine melodrama has an Elseworlds Batman team up with Harry Houdini in a turn-of-the-century vampire opus. This is a real yawn-inducer, although Chiarello's painted visuals are moody enough... (PCP) 5

Black Orchid 4 <+++> (Foreman & Thompson + Woch) A great improvement on previous issues, as we learn the secrets of the nymphs (of which Orchid may be one) with the unfolding of a very touching love story. The subplot of corporate espionage sits rather uncomfortably alongside this, though. (RH) 8

Black Mask 1 (Augustyn & Baikie) A costumed vigilante takes on the Mafia in a city in upper New York State during the 1950s. Features authentic-seeming cops-and-robbers dialogue and visuals to make a riveting read, though it's hardly a new idea. (PCP) 5

Catwoman 4 <+ -> (Duffy & Balent + Giordano) A dull plotline has Catwoman sacrificing her assistant to the still murderous (but now vegetable-like) Bane. I thought cats liked having *fun*... (RH) 3

<+ -> Lightweight but surprisingly enjoyable, unpretentious comic, nicely drawn by Balent. This one could turn into a winner. (SM) 8

Children's Crusade 1 (Gaiman & Bachalo + Barreiro) Sandman is increasingly disappointing these days. But Gaiman reminds us that he still can write, in the opening chapter of the first Vertigo crossover retelling the Pied Piper story. (RH) 9

Eagerly-awaited, but disappointing; a plodding if mildly intriguing 56 pages that should have been half the length, particularly as you knew where it was going early on. The usually reliable Bachalo is erratic here, ranging from brilliant (see his amazing spread on pages 15-16), to rather dull, as when he fills the page with tiny panels. Hopefully future parts will be tighter — and perhaps a bit more dynamic. (SM) 7

DarkStars 13 <+ -> (Friedman & Porter + Branch) Bad guys kidnap John Flint and with alien assistance turn him into a weapon against the DarkStars. A taut script is ill served by Porter and Branch's failed attempt at emulating Travis Charest; the lack of a decent and regular artist does not auger well for a long run. (PCP) 4

Deathstroke, the Terminator Annual 2 (Wein & Erwin + various) An alien parasite hitches a ride on a plane to Paris — and just happens to run into Deathstroke on a gun-buying spree. Wein holds everything together with practised ease. The easy visuals are a bonus, here. (PCP) 6

Demon Annual 2 (Ennis & McCrea) A *Bloodlines* episode, introducing Hitman. Ennis seems to have a lot of fun letting his sense of humour run free in this less-than-tasteful but amusing story. I'm looking forward to more of the same from his regular run on **The Demon**. (MG) 7

Another overlong *Bloodlines* entry, which introduces bizarre villains and yet another avenger who uses guns to win arguments. Instantly forgettable. (PCP) 2

Eclipso 13 <+> (Fleming & Newman + Kryssing) A gut-wrenching episode in which several notable DC heroes — Creeper included — seem to lose their lives. Only future issues will reveal the truth, although all the signs indicate that their deaths are (as in getting real) permanent. Time to get the copies in... (PCP) 8

Eclipso Annual 2 (Fleming & Klein + Kryssing) An out of the ordinary *Bloodlines* series entry, which maintains reader interest throughout. Old-time hero Johnny Peril makes a brief guest appearance. (PCP) 7

Enigma 8 <+ -> (Milligan & Fegredo) The secrets of the Enigma are revealed as Michael Smith comes to terms with his sexuality, in this final episode of Milligan's masterwork. A touching and honest series. (RH) 10

Extremist 3 <-> (Milligan & McKeever) Some of this story's impact has been lost along the way, saddled as it is with an unnecessarily confusing narrative. But it's still hard-hitting, as we follow Judy's descent into the Extremist's sick and perverted world. (RH) 7

Green Arrow 80 <+ -> (Grell & Marimon + Nyberg) A sad moment in the comics world, as Mike Grell finishes his impressive run on **Green Arrow**. The final story offers no happy endings for Ollie, but a much-needed resolution to at least one long-running plotline is offered as consolation to the fans. (RH) 7

Green Lantern 47 <+> (Jones & Kolins + Tanghal) A supposedly dead member of Carol Ferris' family makes a dramatic reappearance in Jones' convoluted and entertaining swansong, paving the way for the Superman/Batman-style Green Lantern revamp, 60 days hence. Green Arrow guests as he rejoins the DC superhero fold. (PCP) 6

Hawkman Annual 1 (Ostrander & Duursema + Lieber + Magyar) A Vietnam veteran gets an even *badder* attitude following an encounter with alien parasites. Another instantly forgettable *Bloodlines* episode, which is hardly aided by poor colouring and little more than average art. (PCP) 2

Hellblazer 71 <+ -> (Ennis & Dillon) This title is going from strength to strength, as the haunting experiences of a long-dead fighter pilot give Constantine the boot in the pants he needs to start pulling himself together. Buoyed by Steve Dillon's usual unique and magnificent pencils, this really is a classic run. (SM) 9

<+> Ennis delivers another excellent piece of storytelling that serves as a poignant reminder of how precious every single moment of life really is... (MG) 9

<+ -> Quite beautifully done — I cheered when John came back from the edge. (RH) 10

Jonah Hex 5 <+> (of 5; Landsdale & Truman) A hard-hitting finale to a gritty series that has lived up to its promise in every respect. And there's a cracker of an ending. Kudos is due, all round. (SM) 9

Justice League Task Force 6 <+ -> (O'Neil & Velluto + Albrecht) The story of Bruce Wayne's Task Force attack on Santa Prisca inevitably goes nowhere, because O'Neil is determined to stretch this plotline as far as he can. Including Bronze Tiger only serves to remind us how much Suicide Squad is missed. (RH) 4

Kid Eternity 7 <-> (Nocenti & Phillips) I'm afraid I've come to end of my patience as far as this title's concerned. The narrative is so difficult to follow that it negates any entertainment value the story might have and the characters' dialogue so similar that they're virtually interchangable. The only redeeming quality here is Phillips' art. (MG) 2

L.E.G.I.O.N '93 Annual 4 (Waid & McKone + Tenney + various) The sole survivor of an alien race joins L.E.G.I.O.N to destroy a parasite-breeding monstrosity. Excellent *Bloodlines* episode, which actually progresses the story — unlike most episodes to date. (PCP) 8

Metal Men 2 <+> (Carlin & Jurgens + Breeding) The true origin of the Metal Men is finally revealed — and seems totally logical. (PH) 8

<+> After 30 years, the origin of the Metal Men is revealed in Carlin's compelling '90s update. (PCP) 8

Outsiders 1 (Barr & Pelletier + Campanella) Barr's skilful narrative doesn't flag as the two teams are

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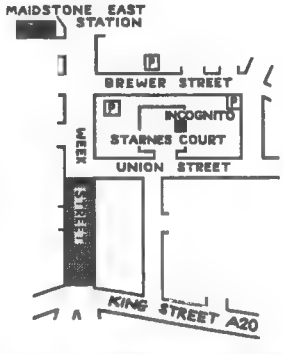

swept up in a game of intrigue and murder. Sterling work from Pelletier and Campanella, getting the new series off to a rousing start. But it's to be hoped that Barr doesn't allow the fugitive theme to run too long. PCP 8

Standard super team fare, but a notch or two above other DC teams these days, with some very nice art from **The Incredible Hulk's** Paul Pelletier. (RH) 8

Robin 1 (Dixon & Grummett + Hanna) Robin strikes out on his own following disagreements with Azrael/Batman. Steve "Shotgun" Smith makes a welcome return to the Batman mythos in what promises to be an engaging series, allowing scope to concentrate more fully on Tim Drake and his growing support cast. (PCP) 7

The art team outdo themselves on the boy wonder's first solo issue, but Dixon's clumsy attempts to tackle yoof issues like joyriding do seem a little patronising. Robin himself, though, is a likeable character,"and this series looks promising. (RH) 7

Sandman 55 <+ -> (Gaiman & Pensa + Talbot + Locke) Gaiman again proves he's got the greatest imagination in comics in this onion-like storyline, highlighted here by Daniel Vozzo's unerringly tasteful colours along with fine work from Pensa and Talbot. (SM) 9

<+> An apprentice mortician tells tales of the Necropolis Letharge. An entertaining issue which uses the story within a story device to great effect. Gaiman has a real ability for creating tales that feel like authentic mythology. (MG) 8

Scarab 1 (Smith & Eaton + Barreiro) A 78-year-old former mystical superhero waits to find out what is behind the green door, through which his wife disappeared 50 years ago. An impressive beginning, which engages you throughout and leaves you wanting more at the end. If subsequent issues are of the same standard, it will be a shame if DC don't keep it as an ongoing standalone title. (MG) 8

Shade, the Changing Man 41 <+ -> (Milligan & G Dillon) Chris Bachalo is sorely missed, even if Glyn Dillon does a decent fill-in job, while Milligan contributes a curious tale of Greek Gods, with a sly, portentous surprise at the end. (SM) 8

Spectre 13 <+ -> (Ostrander & Mandrake) Frustrated in his mission to punish the guilty, the Spectre arrives in war-torn Europe where guilt seemingly lies on all sides, creating an interesting dilemma for the vengeful ghost. This book gets more interesting each month, and Mandrake's art is superb. (RH) 8

<+> I can't understand why this title wasn't put under the Vertigo banner. Ostrander really is at home with this character; the Spectre has never been so fascinating. This issue spotlights the Balkan war and, unlike with other writers, it is not used as an excuse to have jingoistic superheroes kicking Bosnian, Serbian or Croation butt. (PH) 8

S.T.A.R.Corps 1 (Vado & Felchle + Machlan) Superman spin-off, serving to introduce even *more* mundane run-of-the-mill superheroes into the DC universe. And as such, this book has little to recommend it. (PCP) 1

The team that brought us cult-favourite **The Griffin** introduces a new team of superheroes which, on first impressions, seem better

conceived than the long-running and tedious *Bloodlines* creations. Promising start. (PH) 7

S.T.A.R Corps 2 <+ -> (Vado & Felchle + Machlan) Vado seems to prefer conceiving his own characters, as this is far more enjoyable than his recent work on **Justice League America**. Good character development, including the dynamics of relationships at S.T.A.R labs. The introduction of Rampage (from **Superman**) is a bonus. (PH) 7

Streets 1 (Hudnall & Estes) Lean, taut and gritty cop story, nicely drawn and adventurously coloured. If anything, it ended too soon. (SM) 9

Hudnall could be a superb novelist. This is a wonderful cop and slasher story, adequately illustrated and with a credible ending. This must be one of the most entertaining comics I've read this year. Excellent. (PH) 9

Streets 2 <+> (Hudnall & Ortaleza) Even better than issue one, due to Orteleza's superior, realistic pencils and a tighter story. Sort of *Reservoir Dogs* meets Elmore Leonard. A real sleeper. (SM) 10

Superman 83 <+> (Jurgens & Jurgens + Rubinstein) Superman and the JLA gather to prevent Engine City collapsing into the sea and polluting the Pacific seaboard. Nice human interest piece that maintains the current standard of excellence. (PCP) 8

Superman 84 <+> (Jurgens & Jurgens + Rubinstein) A psychotic Toyman plagues Metropolis with a series of child-snatchings. Superman revels in his increasing strength and takes Lois for a romantic evening in Paris. Bitter sweet issue with a real shocking ending. (PH) 8

<-> A rather weak and melodramatic issue has the Toyman killing Cat Grant's son while Supes and Lois are of partying in Paris. Cue the guilt trip. Rubinstein's inks are not as suited to Jurgens as regular ink-artist Brett Breeding. (RH) 6

Superman: Man of Steel 28 <- -> (L Simonson & Wojtkiewicz + Janke) What a letdown! No sooner have they tied up most of the loose ends left over from the Doomsday saga, then this comic reverts back to it's sloppy, infantile self. Storywise, this is all over the place, and while Wojtkiewicz can turn in a nice panel or two, his art is often awkward, and hideously inked in places by Dennis Janke. A shame they couldn't maintain the quality. (SM) 4

<-> One of those "isn't Superman a great guy" issues that lacks any plot other than following the boyscout from one disaster to the next. Wojtkiewicz's art is at least not as ridiculous as the regular team. (RH) 5

Superman: Speeding Bullets (DeMatteis & Baretto) More of a Batman Elseworlds story concentrating as it does on orphaned Kal-El being adopted by Thomas and Martha Wayne and becoming a super powered avenging Batman upon their deaths. It's a recycled 60s imaginary story, dragged into the 90s to useful effect. Don't miss. 9

The Death and Life of Superman (DC/Bantam books; Roger Stern) If you have never read a Superman comic but are interested in the character, then this is a perfect starting point. Excellently written, with enough background and characterisation to compensate for the fact that this isn't your usual

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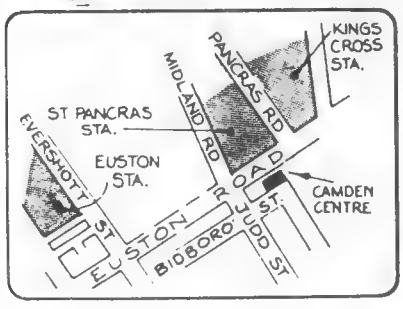

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Superman format. Because it is a novel, there is more pathos and a few wonderful moments, especially when an unruly five year old hangs on every word the Man of Steel says, to the absolute joy of the boys mother. Doomsday, takes up very little of the book, although his presence is always felt. The resurrection sequence is explained with much more lucidity than the comic did. A wonderful experience. (PH) 10

Swamp Thing 137 <- -> (Collins & Braun) Collins seems to be running out of steam, or inspiration, as her latest storyline is rather weak and tired. Artist Braun manages to maintain the book's look, though Scot Eaton's pencils are missed. (SM) 6

<+ -> Arcane's plans come to fruition, but at what cost to Abby? All the different plot elements come together as Collins prepares to leave her run on this title; and to her credit, she will leave it in a lot better condition than it was when she first received it. (MG) 7

<+ -> John Constantine is thrust further out of character when Nancy Collins turns him into a fistfighter in her penultimate Swamp story. Collins descends further into camp horror, this issue bears more than a few comparisons with the atrocious Swamp Thing movie. (RH) 4

Wonder Woman 81 <+ +> (Messner-Loebs & Moder + Parks) Diana loses her power of flight but proves her cunning can still win out when she takes on the Mob in a quest for child support from a deserting father. Highly topical and enjoyable superheroing with a great sense of fun. (RH) 9

MARVEL COMICS

Amazing Spider-Man 384 <+ -> (Michelinie & Bagley + Emberlin) Dredging up the Carnage/Venom subplot once more (like it's the only one Michelinie can write), Spidey is put on trial for bringing the deadly black costume to Earth. Heavily strung out issue with a ridiculous ending. (RH) 3

<-> One would hope that Michelinie has some other interesting ideas up his sleeve and is just killing time before the big secret is revealed (Spidey's identity). To have the Jury make him stand trial for bringing the symbiote costume to Earth is a bit silly and begs the question, Spider-Man wasn't to only hero to gain a new costume from the **Secret Wars** series, who else can Michelinie have possessed by a murderous costume? (PH) 3

Cable 5 <+ -> (Nicieza & Robertson + Holdredge) Pleasant change seeing Darick drawing a title beset by art problems. It's just a shame he can't draw Cable. Nicieza provides a neat twist in the Sinsear story, catching out most X-fans in the process. (PH) 6

Cable 6 <+> (Nicieza & Turner + Holdredge) Best issue to date, albeit a little confusing near the end. Mr Sinister pays Nathan a visit and soon all his pasts are revealed, Stryfe is Cable, Cable is Stryfe and both are Nathan Summers. This series has more bearing on the X-Men than X-Force and if you read the former and not the latter, you should read this. (PH) 8

Daredevil: The Man Without Fear 2 <+> (Miller & Romita Jr + Williamson) Tense, lightning-paced tale, with

Romita rising to the occasion with some of his most dynamic pencils yet. (SM) 10

<+> Matt avenges his father's death and has his first encounter with Elektra. Although anyone with an interest in DD knows the sequence of events that are being portrayed here, the pleasure is in watching Miller doing what he does best, taking an established character and their history and remoulding it into something better. (MG) 9

Daredevil: Man Without Fear 3, <+ -> (Miller & Romita,Jr)
Rich in action and character, featuring Elektra and the Kingpin, with Romita bending his art to suit Miller's brisk style. If only everything Marvel did was as good as this. 9

Daredevil 322 <+> (Chichester & McDaniel) *Fall from Grace* continues. This title is at its best when there is a great deal if characterisation, and somehow between a lot of action sequences, the creators have managed to satisfy this requirement. There is a terrific scene where Foggy reminds Matt of his work responsibilities and lets on that he knows a lot more about Matt's *other life* than anybody thought. (MG) 7

Excalibur 71 <+> (Lobdell & Lashley + Robertson + Ryan + various) The final part of the *Fatal Attractions* story arc is more of a scene setter than an epilogue. Interesting interaction between X-Men past and present and the foundations for future relationships are explored. An adequate resolution to the Shadowcat/Colossus relationship. Although not in Alan Davis's class, it is still a worthy contribution to X-Men continuity. (PH) 7

Hellhound, The Redemption Quest 1 (J Miller & Hughes) A dead blues guitarist who acts as a soul catcher for Lucifer, is teamed up with Billy the Kid(!) to hunt down a voodoo queen who's performing miracles in New Orleans. An enjoyable start, this scenario has a lot of potential for future issues and hopefully it will be realised. One gripe though, is that the word balloons in this issue are badly placed within the panels, making it sometimes difficult to tell who is speaking and in what order. (MG) 7

Incredible Hulk 412 <+ -> (David & Pelletier + Smith) A fill-in that is not a fill-in. The Bi-beast decides that he can't live without the affections of She Hulk. Jen, doesn't feel the same way, so she gets her cousin Bruce to teach the monster the facts of life, ala Hulk. Not as funny as other fillers provided by David, but certainly worth reading. (PH) 7

<+ + +> Without a doubt the best script Peter David has written this year has Hulk and cousin Jen (She-Hulk) battling a besotted Bi-Beast and taking playful swipes at Todd McFarlane and John Byrne along the way. Hilarious. (RH) 9

Lethal Foes of Spider-Man 4 <- -> (Fingeroth & Boller + various) Quite simply 23 pages of people in costumes beating each other up, this makes **Youngblood** look interesting... (well, almost). Even more ridiculous is the Stan Lee lookalike who saves the day. Why do I buy this stuff? (RH) 1

Spectacular Spider-Man 207 <+ -> (Grant & Buscema) Spidey and the Shroud duke it out in the ruins of Dr. Strange's mansion while Jonah Jameson goes on the war path. But it's the confrontation between Pete

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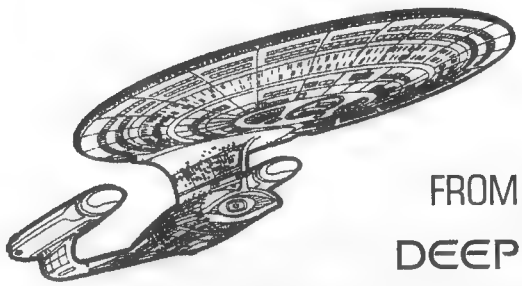

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and Flash Thompson that really impresses — very sensitively written by Grant. (RH) 7

Spider-Man 41 <- - -> (Kavanagh & Jae Lee) Rehashing a plot that was old when **Marvel Team-Up** was first published in the 1970s, Spidey battles Iron Fist over a misunderstanding before the real villain is revealed! Wow. Jae Lee's art meanwhile, is hardly suited to the Web-slinger. (RH) 2

Spider-Man 2099 #14 <-> (David & Grindberg + Hudson) Spidey and the Net Prophet (oh dear!) discuss a confusing plotline, while (more interestingly), Lyla the hologram becomes jealous of Miguel's girlfriend. Guest artist Grindberg delivers an embarrassing Mignola-parody. (RH)6

Web of Spider-Man 107 <+ -> (Kavanagh & Saviuk + Baskerville) The turkey of all turkeys continues to gobble as rogue science project involving sand goes wild and guest stars Sandman and Quicksand pop up because they have sand in their names and they're worried about trademark infringement. Sand in the writer's head. (RH) 1

Wolverine 75 <+ +> (Hama & Adam Kubert + Farmer + Green + Pennington) Part five of the *Fatal Attractions* storyline and the tension doesn't end. Excellent action issue that starts on a rollercoaster of a re-entry ride and doesn't let up until the fate of Logan is revealed. An excellent mix of high-adventure and tender moments. (PH) 9

Wolverine 76 <-> (Hama & Coker + Sinclair) Passable art fill in from Tom Coker, who bases his Wolverine on the Kent Williams version (all hair and very ugly) but without muscles. With none of his ferociousness and the lack of healing factor, Wolverine has suddenly become a different character entirely. (PH) 7

Uncanny X-Men 306 <+> (Lobdell & Romita Jr + Green) Lobdell has a tendency to resurrect dead characters, just so that he can kill them off again. This is spotlighted in an issue where Archangel's dead-ex Candy Southern returns to aid arch-villain Cameron Hodge, in his ultimate attempt at ending the X-Man's life. Romita's visuals come as a relief after 305's poor fill-in. (PH) 7

Uncanny X-Men 307 <+ -> (Lobdell & Romita Jr + Green) The Avengers and X-Men crossover reaches the penultimate chapter. Nice art, good hero interaction, but no real need for the X-Men to be involved. This is just an Avengers story with some X-Men villains. (PH) 7

X-Factor 97 <- - -> (DeMatteis & Duursema + Milgrom) The team has gone from believable characters, when Peter David and (gulp) Scott Lobdell wrote them, to nothing more than a bunch of familiar faces with personality disorders. Probably the best (worst) example of poor continuity is that of Forge, who has never been portrayed with as much ignorance, stupidity and undemocratic tendancy in all the years I have followed the character. Truly touching rock bottom. (PH) 2

X-Men Annual 2 (Nicieza & Weisenfeld + various) Nicieza touches on the delicate subject of hostels for the terminally ill, as the X-Men travel to a south sea island to confront Empyrean, a mutant who must leech the powers of the terminally ill "legacy virus" sufferers, to remain alive himself. Moral and ethical conundrums abound, with a surprise ending which should put a few concerned mutant lovers' minds at rest. (PH) 6

X-Men 2099 #3 <-> (Moore & Lim + various) While the real X-books continue to both amaze and bemuse, this book has already proved it is no where near the same pedigree of its 1993 counterpart. Superfluous story, with stunted artwork makes this an X-book to miss. (PH) 3

INDEPENDENTS

Bloodshot 11 (Valiant; Van Hook & Perlin + Dixon) Aging millionaire undergoes Bloodshot treatment in an attempt to prolong his lifespan. The captured Bloodshot is a necessary ingredient in the process, an above average series entry. (PCP) 5

Dark Dominion 1 (Defiant; Wein & James + various) One of those "demons on every street corner" paranoia stories with lots of confusing dialogue and sub-Ditko monsters running around. A disappointment, with extremely garish colouring. (RH) 4

Doorman 1 (Cult Press; Leonard & Lyle) Doorman knows the dark secrets in our pasts, and fights to save people when these secrets threaten their present. An imaginative and promising debut with occasionally striking art, this book would not look out of place at Vertigo. (RH) 8

Eternal Warrior 17 (Valiant; Moretti + Van Hook & Halstead + Drake) Judas' thirty pieces of silver offer another source of power for Master Darque. An interesting idea negated by an introduction of standard hulking brute and some poor villains. (PCP) 3

Exit 5 <+ -> (Taxi Comics; Kanan) After quite a long break, Exit returns and Kanan dazzles us once more with his story of a group of teenagers, their crazy relationships and the mystery they are involved in. Natural and funny script, striking art, engaging characters. (RH) 9

Femforce 64 (AC; various) Garganta continues the Hollywood rampage in a moderately entertaining episode (Black & various). For Western fans — Black Phantom is given an all-new back up chapterplay (Northey + Black & Black + various) as a precursor to transplanting to a modern day setting. Overall a very mixed package with more lows than highs. (PCP) 4

Femforce 65 (AC; various) Matriarchal Society of Rur is a bit miffed at Stardust's liaison with David Burke and demands that Earth hands her back for punishment. A serious series entry — for a change — though perhaps confusing to newcomers. The Black Phantom chapterplay continues as she faces death at the hands of vengeful Indians. An improvement over recent issues. (PCP) 7

Hardcase 4 (Ultraverse; Hudnall + Englehart & Robinson + Welch) The

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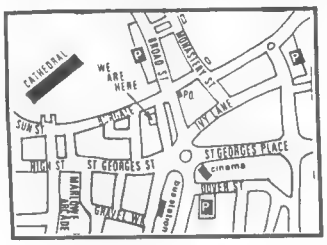

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Strangers join forces with Hardcase and Choice to investigate mysteries surrounding the deaths of the Squad members. Routine actioner, enhanced due to strong plot and characterisations. (PCP) 8

Mantra 3 <-> (Ultraverse; Barr & Dodson + Vey) Mantra versus Barbie clone, in the weakest of the three issues so far. More on Lukasz's past is revealed, but his character is less appealing than the woman who's mind lies dormant in her own body. (PH) 5

John Byrne's Next Men 19 (Faith 1) <+ -> (Dark Horse; Byrne + Webb) Escaping from prison, the Next Men stumble on an underground religion while other subplots reach boiling point. Something of an inbetween issue, but Byrne still dazzles. (RH) 8

Peter Kuper's Bleeding Heart 5 (Fantagraphics; Kuper) Kuper's black and white autobiographical tales of romantic entanglement stand apart from others doing much the same thing (Joe Matt, Seth, etc.), due to his highly stylised woodcut like art (which make marvellous use of black) and his frequent flights of fancy. (SM) 10

Real Stuff 14 <+ -> (Fantagraphics; Eichorn & various) It's amazing that Eichorn hasn't run out of interesting stories yet. Highlight here is his tale of rock phenom Wild Man Fisher, hilariously illustrated by veteran underground artist J R Williams. (SM) 8

Secret Weapons 4 (Valiant; St Pierre & Bolinger) A mad scientist injects Stronghold with a psychoactive drug causing him to grow uncontrollably. Routine "monster-on-rampage" pot boiler ensues. (PCP) 2

Shadowman 21 (Valiant; Hall & Hall + Dixon) Boniface travels through time on a strange mission for Darque — encountering lost love Elya in the process. This series has suddenly a sense of direction that has been lacking in recent months. (PCP) 7

Sludge 1 (Ultraverse; Gerber & Lopresti + Martin) Cop-on-the-take crosses mob bosses and becomes the latest in a long line of much encrusted monsters. Story and art combine well, offering a sense of newness in familiar surroundings. (PCP) 5

The Solution 1 (Ultraverse; Hudnall & Robertson + Lowe) Malibu's answer to Marvel's **Silver Sable**, with more guts and plot twists in one issue, than the Marvel equivalent has had in 20-odd issues. Violent and graphically impressive, another potential winner from the Ultraverse. (PH) 8

Star Wars: Tales of the Jedi 1 (Dark Horse; Veitch & Gossett + Barreiro) Set in the era of the old republic, three young Jedi are sent to bring peace to a warring planet, but they have doubts that all is not what it seems. Veitch has obviously put a lot of thought into the backstory and gives this issue a lot more depth than is associated with *Star Wars* in comics form. The artwork hits the right tone for the material. (MG) 7

The Strangers 4 (Ultraverse; Englehart & Hoberg + Burgard) Continuation of the Hardcase/Choice/Strangers crossover has heroes invading government installation with surprise outcome. Top flight entertainment throughout with some striking visuals. (PCP) 8

Team Anarchy 1 (Dagger; Danner & Schmitz) Creators try to imitate Image and Liefeld and fail miserably. Nonsensical, nonexistent plot concerns 31st Century superhuman freedom fighters, defeating overwhelming odds with comparative ease. Employing someone with artistic talent might have helped — though it's doubtful. (PCP) 1

If this is the future of comics, I really don't know if I want to be part of it. No hope characters with a no-plot story. Should have been retitled Team Atrocity and published by Spamdagger comics. Awful is really too kind a word for this. (PH) 1

Universal Monsters: Creature from the Black Lagoon (Dark Horse; Moncuse & Adams + Austin) Adaptation of the Richard Carlson/Julia Adams/Richard Denning 50s monster movie in which scientists encounter a lagoon dwelling Gill-Man. Cult classic — extremely dated — though script and art provide satisfying entertainment. 7

Awesome entertainment, kept so faithful to the original movie, one wonders if it could possibly have a market in this modern-age of comics. Moncuse gets the feel of the fifties to a tee, while Adams and Austin provide some of the best visuals to grace comic pages for many moons. (PH) 9

Warriors of Plasm 3 <+ -> (Shooter & Lapham + Witherby) Shooter's brisk, exciting and action packed story is marred by the absolutely appalling, garish colours; did Defiant get a bargain on bright yellow and lime green paint? (SM) 8

Yummy Fur 31 (Drawn and Quarterly; Brown) Curious the way Brown's pared his technique down to the basics, even more than Sim did during **Church and State**. A brief parable likening love to freedom speaks all the louder for lack of words; in contrast, Brown's adaptation of *Matthew* gives due primacy to the text, as thought-provokingly presented as ever. (MK) 8

UK TITLES

Bunty 1867 (DC Thomson; various) The photo features have been steadily multiplying for the last three years and the strips seem more lightweight, paranoid rather than cruel. "The Comp" remains the best — the only? — soap in British comics, but is it enough to prevent this title going the way of **Jackie**? (MK) 3

Gladiators 2 (Century 22; Sutherland/various) Kev Sutherland, having endowed the TV heroes with superpowers and pitted them against a 60s-style cackling villain, redeems himself by making them look even more hideous than they do on screen. Sadly, the hint of satire mixes with an otherwise straightfaced approach to uneasy effect. (MK) 3

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Entertaining and visually stimulating adaptation of Gemmell's debut novel. Fangorn's art is reminiscent of Don Lawrence, John Buscema and a host of Catalan artists. The story of the rise of a warrior is only marred by some stunted scripting. (PH) 7

Judge Dredd 40 <+ -> (Fleetway; various) Harke and Burr return and while it is enjoyable, the art is sometimes too bleak to effectively convey the humour of the story. In other areas, Body Count has outgrown its similarities to earlier Mechanismo books. The final episode of Hershey demonstrates Kevin Cullen's talents for both monochrome and colour art. (DP) 8

Mandy and Judy 127 (DC Thomson; various) The dilution of the strips is less evident than in **Bunty**, although the inclusion of a classic reprint serves as a reminder that the girls' comics used to tap a vein of cruelty which made Lobo look like Soft Walter. This is perhaps the most human comic on the British shelves — give it a try! (MK) 8

The Player King: Beware the Green-eyed Monster (Marginalia Graphics; Harper & Allgren) Nice packaging and a story that reads like a cross between **Sandman Mystery Theatre** and **Batman**, sadly poor art and even poorer lettering make this one to avoid at all costs. (PH) 1

Overkill 40 (Marvel UK; various) Various is right — but too much variety can be a bad thing. Perhaps the increase in size this month will help, but these mayhem-packed snippets from comicbooks produced for the US are empty and unsatisfying. The whole title seems like a superhero sampler rather than a comic in its own right. (MK) 2

Roy of the Rovers Monthly 3 (Fleetway; various) The mixture of reprints and radically new material (Racey is now an amputee!) is finely judged and may well be more appealing than the **Glory Glory** project it replaces could ever have been. I'll be making this a regular purchase. (MK) 7

Sonic The Comic 10 (Fleetway; various) Good, sick fun in the early **2000AD** tradition. The editorial decision to focus on independent storylines rather than the games on which they're based means that this well-balanced title may survive the inevitable demise of the hedgehog's popularity. (MK) 5

2000AD 859 <+ -> (Fleetway; various) The autumn attack's two best stories — Tyranny Rex and Slaine — come to an end. However the new Dredd story *City of the Dead*, gets off to a good start in terms of both art and script. (DP) 7

2000AD 860 <+ -> (Fleetway; various) Replacing Slaine this issue is Hogan and Bollard's Timehouse, a brave and largely successful stray from the action genre usually seen in 2000AD. Also, Mark Millar writes a Terror Tale which is lent some extra strangeness by Shaky Kane's distinct art. (DP) 7

SMALL PRESS

Automatic 3 <++> (anthology; £1.25 from Rich Holden, Vale View, 77 Liverpool Rd, Buckley, Clwyd CH7 3LA) What began a few months ago as an enjoyable jam session has rapidly matured, becoming a rich and varied collation of surreal silliness. It's somehow reminiscent of **Deadline**, but is far better. (MK) 9

Battleground 3 (£1.75 from Andy Brewer, 58 Kingsley Crt, Aylesbury Cl, Salford M5 4ER) Anyone seriously interested in the state of fandom should be reading this. Well written articles and interviews cover a wide range of comics, the main attraction is an enormous, articulate, provocative lettercol. Join in the fun now! (MK) 9

Buy This Comic 4 (£1.08 from Matt Dyer, 106 Victoria Rd, London N22 4XF) Much of the Viz humour of earlier issues has been replaced by sharper, wittier gag strips and a couple of serious narrative experiments. The result is a greatly improved comic which is rapidly establishing a unique identity. One to keep and eye on. (MK) 7

Comico 1 (Butler, Hogg; £1.25 from To Yield Press, 32 Cemetery Ave, Sheffield, S11 8NT) The creators of the remarkable **Skittle-Sharpers and Thimble Riggers** series take a decidedly off-kilter look at space opera, romance, jungle comics and other assorted genres, neatly skewering their targets without ever resembling Kurtzman's **Mad**. Delightful. (MK) 10

Jubba Jubba 2 (£1.00 from Kevin Blake, 33 Clarina St, Lincoln LN2 5LZ) More rude, irreverent comedy from the Viz corner. Nice production values, a touch of self-deprecation and more varied art styles than its inspiration make this well worth a look. (MK) 6

Just Say Know (£1.00 from THCDT, 71 Johnson Street, Wapping, London E1 0AQ) A comic detailing the history and effects of numerous common drugs, produced by the Downside team. Information, warnings and a dramatic narrative are skilfully balanced, and Pete Ketley's art is a constant delight. One of the best informational comics I've seen. (MK) 9

More Tales From Sleaze Castle 6 <+ -> (£1.55 from D McKinnon, 33 Windsor Drive, Sunderland, Tyne & Wear SR6 7SY) Quite simply the most accomplished SF comic being produced in Britain. New readers should start at the first issue: those already aboard can rest assured that the new episode of this trans-dimensional Moebius strip is well up to the usual high standards. (MK) 8

Mutant Media 3 <+> (£1.50 inclusive from Phil Hall, 3 Ashfield Road, Wellingborough, Northants NN8 3JG) The new format has made this a much more attractive package, and it's food to see that its attitude remains firmly critical. Even those who don't give a hoot about Marvel Mutants will find things to enjoy and agree with here. (MK) 6

PDS 4 (anthology; 85p or a small press comic swap, from P Ashton, 31 North Walls, Winchester SO23 8DB) Steve Blincoe offers a very strange slice of SF, Ashton a beautiful, dislocating mood piece and Luke Walsh — a futuristic nightmare. A satisfying mixture. (MK) 7

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Code to abbreviations used:

w/s	= wholesale available
dis	= bulk discount terms
cat	= catalogue available
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s-wants	= sae with wants lists
CoBRA	= Comic Book Retailers' mail order protection scheme
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GOLDEN AGE TITLES

Generally acknowledged as being published between 1938 and 1945 but herein designated to cover all pre-Silver Age American comics

■ **Conquistador Comic Art Mail Order,** 158 Kent House Road, Beckenham, Kent BR3 1JY (wants, CoBRA, s-cat, cc) 081-659 9714

■ **Incognito,** 14 Starnes Court, Union Street, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1EB. (s-wants, CoBRA, cc) Phone/Fax 0622-683642

■ **Silver Acre Comics,** The Studio Cottage, Edern, Pwllheli, Gwynedd LL53 6JD (s-wants, cc) 0758-720 532

■ **Stateside Comics PLC,** 125 East Barnet Road, Barnet, EN4 8RF (dis, cat, CoBRA, cc) 081-449 5535

SILVER AGE TITLES

Generally deemed to commence in 1955 with DC Comics' hero rebirth through ***Detective 225*** *(introducing the Martian Manhunter) and* ***Showcase 4*** *(introducing the new Flash), herein covering up to late 1960s.*

■ **Cosmic Comics,** PO Box 1771, London E17 9PW. (cat, wants, CoBRA)

■ **Graphically Speaking,** 49 Roman Road, London E2. (s-wants, CoBRA) 081 983 4602

■ **Incognito,** 14 Starnes Court, Union Street, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1EB. (s-wants, CoBRA, cc) Phone/fax 0622-683642

■ **Just Comics,** 2 Crossmead Ave, Greenford, Middx UB6 9TY (cat-28p, CoBRA)

■ **Silver Acre Comics,** The Studio Cottage, Edern, Pwllheli, Gwynedd LL53 6JD (s-wants, cc) 0758-720 532

■ **Stateside Comics PLC,** 125 East Barnet Rd, Barnet, EN4 8RF (dis, cat, CoBRA, cc) 081-449 5535

POST-SILVER AGE

Comics from the 1970s to date: Bronze Age-Marvel Age-Lead Age up to Platinum Age-Valiant Age-Image Age. Historians will doubtless decide on a name.

■ **Comics Warehouse,** PO Box 600, 8 Galliford Road, Maldon, Essex CM9 7XD (w/s, cat, cc, CoBRA) 0621 850351

■ **Conquistador Comic Art Mail Order,** 158 Kent House Road, Beckenham, Kent BR3 1JY (wants, CoBRA, s-cat, cc) 081-659 9714

■ **Cosmic Comics,** PO Box 1771, London E17 9PW. (cat, wants, CoBRA)

■ **Darkside,** 32 Marlborough Road, London E18 1AP (wants, CoBRA) 081 989 9955

■ **Forest Comics,** 11 Oakley Way, Bream, Lydney, Glos. (cat, wants) 0594-563692

■ **Red Hot Comics,** 42 Berridale Ave, Cathcart, Glasgow G44 3AE (CoBRA, s-wants) 041-637 0162 (10am-11pm)

■ **Stateside Comics PLC,** 125 East Barnet Road, Barnet, Herts EN4 8RF (dis, cat, CoBRA, cc) 081-449 5535

HOT COMICS

Current or key titles, usually first issues or first appearances of major characters. Investment titles for speculators willing to gamble on what will increase in value.

■ **Comics Unlimited,** Unit 11, The Arcade, Letchworth, Hertfordshire. (wants, CoBRA) 0462 480018

■ **Cosmic Comics,** PO Box 1771, London E17 9PW. (cat, wants, CoBRA)

■ **Darkside,** 32 Marlborough Road, London E18 1AP (wants, CoBRA) 081 989 9955

■ **Edge of Forever, The,** 82 b Broadway, Bexleyheath, Kent DA6 7LW. (wants, CoBRA, cc) 081-298 1363

■ **Floppy Tongue,** 96 Fisherton Street, Salisbury, Wilts SP2 7QY (cat, w/s, wants, CoBRA) 0722 331107

■ **Graphically Speaking,** 49 Roman Road, London E2. (s-wants, CoBRA) 081 983 4602

■ **Incognito,** 14 Starnes Court, Union Street, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1EB. (s-wants, CoBRA, cc) Phone/Fax 0622-683642

■ **Red Hot Comics,** 42 Berridale Ave, Cathcart, Glasgow G44 3AE (CoBRA, s-wants) 041-637 0162 (10am-11pm)

■ **Stateside Comics PLC,** 125 East Barnet Rd, Barnet, EN4 8RF (dis, cat, CoBRA, cc) 081-449 5535

ADVANCE IMPORTS

US comics are not in newsagents, except for almost all DCs and most $1.25 Marvels, shipped seafreight. The following offer air-shipped copies from all major publishers.

■ **ACE Comics,** 1 Headgate Buildings, St Johns Street, Colchester, Essex C02 7AD (wants, cat, CoBRA, cc) 0206 561912

■ **Arrival Comics,** 2 Broad Street, Wolverhampton WV1 1HP (s-wants) 0902 313660

■ **Beyond Comics & Books,** 1 Ballina St, London SE23 1DR (s-cat, s-wants, CoBRA) 081 291 3976

■ **Comics Unlimited,** Unit 11, The Arcade, Letchworth, Herts SG6 3ET (s-cat,s-wants) 0462 480018

■ **Edge of Forever, The,** 82 b Broadway, Bexleyheath, Kent DA6 7LW. (wants, CoBRA, cc) 081-298 1363

■ **Floppy Tongue,** 96 Fisherton Street, Salisbury, Wilts SP2 7QY (cat, w/s, wants, CoBRA) 0722 331107

■ **Incognito,** 14 Starnes Court, Union Street, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1EB. (s-wants, CoBRA, cc) Phone/fax 0622-683642

■ **Mega-City Comics,** 18 Inverness Street, Camden Town, London NW1 7HJ (s-cat, cc, CoBRA) 071 485 9320

■ **Planet X,** 5 London Road, Worcester WR5 2DJ (wants,CoBRA) Phone/fax: 0905 355055

■ **Red Hot Comics,** 42 Berridale Ave, Cathcart, Glasgow G44 3AE (CoBRA, s-wants) 041-637 0162 (10am-11pm)

■ **Stateside Comics PLC,** 125 East Barnet Rd, Barnet, EN4 8RF (dis, cat, CoBRA, cc) 081-449 5535

LIMITED EDITIONS

Many high-profile mini-series and one-shots are also available in limited, numbered and often autographed editions (s&n). New titles, to acquire copyright, can also appear in small print-run "ashcan" editions (ash).

■ **Arrival Comics,** 2 Broad St, Wolverhampton WV1 1HP (s-list, s&n, ash) 0902 313660

■ **Conquistador Comic Art Mail Order,** 158 Kent House Rd, Beckenham, Kent BR3 1JY (wants, CoBRA, s&n, s-cat, cc) 081-659 9714

■ **Darkside,** 32 Marlborough Road, London E18 1AP (wants, CoBRA, ash) 081 989 9955

■ **Edge of Forever, The,** 82 b Broadway, Bexleyheath, Kent DA6 7LW. (wants, CoBRA, cc, s&n) 081-298 1363

■ **Stateside Comics PLC,** 125 East Barnet Rd, Barnet, EN4 8RF (dis, cat, CoBRA, cc, ash, s&n) 081-449 5535

■ **Timezone,** 12 Fish Street, Shrewsbury, Shropshire SY1 1UR (dis, cat, wants) 0743 3651192

TRADING CARDS

An increasing number of traders carry a wide range of comics-related trading cards and their peripherals (files, folders, etc).

■ **Adventure Seekers!,** 105 Hullbrook Road, Billesley, Birmingham, B13 OLE (cat, wants) 021 444 0986

■ **Fantasy Domain,** 212 Grange Rd, Plaistow, London E13 0HB (s-cat, s-wants, CoBRA)

■ **First Choice Cards,** 11 Keith Avenue, Liverpool L4 5SL (cat, wants) 051 5214054

■ **Floppy Tongue,** 96 Fisherton Street, Salisbury, Wilts SP2 7QY (cat, w/s, wants, CoBRA) 0722 331107

■ **Forest Comics,** 11 Oakley Way, Bream, Lydney, Glos. (cat, wants) 0594-563692

■ **Incognito,** 14 Starnes Court, Union Street, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1EB. (s-wants, CoBRA, cc) Phone/Fax 0622-683642

■ **October Trading Card Co,** 52 Bowden St, Litherland, Liverpool L21 8LL (s-cat, s-wants, CoBRA, sae) 051-933 2259

■ **Stateside Comics PLC,** 125 East Barnet Rd, Barnet, EN4 8RF (dis, cat, CoBRA, cc) 081-449 5535

■ **Timezone,** 12 Fish Street, Shrewsbury, Shropshire SY1 1UR (dis, cat, wants) 0743 3651192

ORIGINAL ART

With artists having their originals returned by publishers, an increasing number of pages are now being made available.

■ **Conquistador Comic Art Mail Order,** 158 Kent House Rd, Beckenham, Kent BR3 1JY (wants, CoBRA, s-cat, cc) 081-659 9714

PORTFOLIOS & PRINTS

Specialists in high quality images, of American and/or European origin.

■ **Conquistador Comic Art Mail Order,** 158 Kent House Rd, Beckenham, Kent BR3 1JY (CoBRA, s-cat, cc) 081-659 9714

■ **Incognito,** 14 Starnes Court, Union Street, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1EB. (s-wants, CoBRA, cc) Phone/fax 0622-683642

MERCHANDISE

Comics-related t-shirts, posters, video games, video films, badges, etc.

■ **Incognito,** 14 Starnes Court, Union Street, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1EB. (s-wants, CoBRA, cc) Phone/fax 0622-683642

■ **Stateside Comics PLC,** 125 East Barnet Rd, Barnet, EN4 8RF (dis, cat, CoBRA, cc) 081-449 5535

PERIPHERALS

Acid-free protection for valuable comics. Backing boards, bags, storage boxes, etc.

■ **Conquistador Comic Art Mail Order,** 158 Kent House Rd, Beckenham, Kent BR3 1JY (wants, CoBRA, cc, s-cat) 081-659 9714

■ **Edge of Forever, The,** 82 b Broadway, Bexleyheath, Kent DA6 7LW. (wants, CoBRA, cc, s&n) 081-298 1363

■ **Incognito,** 14 Starnes Court, Union Street, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1EB. (s-wants, CoBRA, cc) Phone/fax 0622-683642

■ **Just Comics,** 2 Crossmead Ave, Greenford, Middlesex UB6 9TY (w/s only, CoBRA) 081 578 1308

■ **Stateside Comics PLC,** 125 East Barnet Road, Barnet, EN4 8RF (dis, CoBRA, cc) 081-449 5535

COMICS AUCTIONS

Accepting lots from the general public, comics auctions can provide an alternative way for collectors to sell their comics.

■ **Comic Book Postal Auctions Limited,** 40-42 Osnaburgh Street, London NW1 3ND (cat) 071 586 3007

■ **Flights of Fantasy,** 82b Broadway, Bexleyheath DA6 7LW (cat). 081-298 1363

MANGA TITLES

English language translations and Japanese-style American comics.

■ **ACE Comics,** 1 Headgate Buildings, St Johns Street, Colchester, Essex C02 7AD (wants, cat, CoBRA, cc) 0206 561912

■ **Edge of Forever, The,** 82 b Broadway, Bexleyheath, Kent DA6 7LW. (wants, CoBRA, cc) 081-298 1363

ART & REFERENCE

Comics history reference magazines & books (ref) plus art books (art) and newspaper strip compilations (strip).

■ **Conquistador Comic Art Mail Order,** 158 Kent House Rd, Beckenham, Kent BR3 1JY (wants, CoBRA, ref, art, strip, s-cat, cc) 081-659 9714

■ **Edge of Forever, The,** 82 b Broadway, Bexleyheath, Kent DA6 7LW. (wants, CoBRA, ref, cc) 081-298 1363

ALTERNATIVE & BIOG

The following carry an extensive range of biographical and slice-of-life titles (Fantagraphics, Maus, Crumb, Pekar, etc)

■ **Knockabout Comics,** 10 Acklam Road, London W10 5QZ (w/s, s-cat, cc) 081 969 2945 (fax: 081 968 7614)

AMERICAN COMICS DISTRIBUTORS

Anybody considering opening a comics specialist shop can obtain further information about the supply of titles from any of the following wholesalers, who air-freight bulk copies of North American comics and related items into Britain on a weekly basis:

■ **Diamond Comic Distributors,** Unit 3, Crown Business Estate, Horton Road, West Drayton, Middlesex UB7 8BR 0895-431 582

■ **Titan Distributors,** Unit 1, Empson Street, London E3 3LT 071 538 8300

■ **First Choice Wholesale,** 8 Galliford Rd, Maldon, Essex CM9 7XD 0621 851 651

ADVERTISING RATES

Each single entry in this index is only £3.00, and is bookable as a 6-issue series entry for mail order services.

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THE COMICS WAREHOUSE

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The current stock offering you see here is segmented by publisher and/or imprint, it contains a huge range of superb bargains from the new Kamandi Elseworlds Mini Series @ 40p to Legends of the Dark Knights at 50p. We have been successful in obtaining a further supply of Swords of Azrael, so after 3 or 4 months of being out of stock, the valuable mini series that introduced Azrael, destined to be the new Batman, is now back and available to purchase.

Talking of Batman, due to good buying, we've been able to lower the prices on Knightfall & Knightfall prequel issues, we have 497 in stock now, the backbreaker issue, at just 75p and 498 and 499 at just 60p.

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All prices given are for individual copies of single issues except "set" prices which are for the specific sets advertised. All of our advertisements and offers of comics for sale are completely self contained and cannot be mixed and matched with other advertisements or offers.

This advertisement is valid from the publication of Comics International 37 until December 14th 1993 only. All orders will be expedited with our usual speed and all orders up to and including the deadline (Dec 14) will be delivered before Christmas.

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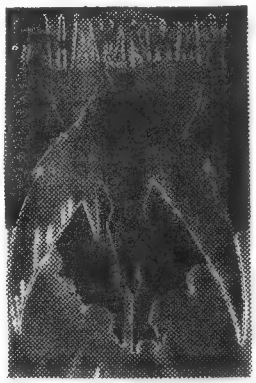

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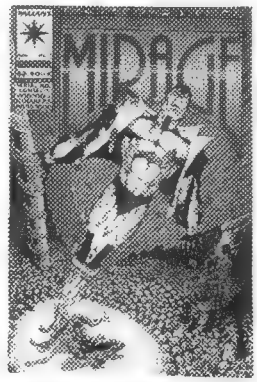

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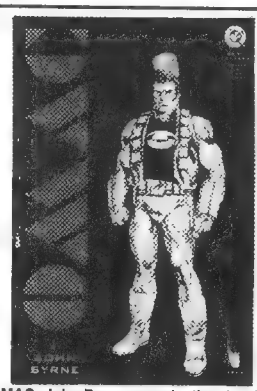

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MOVERS & SHAKERS

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Doomsday's back

SUPERMAN editor Mike Carlin said publicly that after the death of Superman-vanquisher Doomsday, the character would not return.

Yet within six months of the reborn Man of Steel's return, news is that the big grey guy is to face Clark Kent's alter ego once again.

In what seems to be an attempt to continue the momentum of the titles, Doomsday's origins and purpose are to be explained and DC promises that the destruction seen in the first round will be nothing compared to what will now follow.

No lessons learned

IN **Comics International** 34, we highlighted Marvel's direct sales staff's ability to inform retailers of how well a comic was being received in comic shops up to two months before the title had been released.

Hoping — perhaps in vain -- that the company might be alerted to this questionable practice, we were amazed to read a couple of references in January's **Sales to Astonish**, which details books to ship in that month.

Dr. Strange 63: "The new creative team continues to break the rules and everybody is talking about it." That's the new creative team on this title who are first seen in the October 27th shipping **Dr Strange** 60. Pretty rapid feedback there.

Marvels 3: "This sales extravaganza shows no sign of slowing down." How would Marvel know? The book isn't due for release until late November!

Are these guys psychic or what?

The word is: Ultra

THE comic world seems to have been holding its breath over the summer months, in anticipation of who and what was going to be hot.

Strangely enough, many of the forecast hits were just that. But only for publishers and distributors as copies of books like the **Deathmate** series, **Turok 1** and **Comics' Greatest World** sold to retailers in greater and higher numbers. But unfortunately, retailers have had to pick up the tab, whether fans buy them or not. **X-Men 1** revisited.

But one publisher seems to have succeeded in impressing fans and dealers alike with a new range of now highly sort after issues. Yes, Malibu's Ultraverse has finally cracked it. With only a hatful of back issues still available, many of the early numbers are now catapulting in price.

Leading the price parade is **Prime**, issue one is now as high as £5, but it is the couponed issue two that has dealers reaching for the mark-up pens every time one sells. Highest recorded price for issue two is £10 and rising.

Freex #2 was under-ordered and under printed, we told you about it last issue. It's now official, dealers are charging upwards of £5 for it.

Hardcase has also increased in price: £5 for issue one and £7.50 for the coupon issue two. Issue three is also gaining ground, with most dealers asking £3.

The Strangers #1 is about the hardest book to find, although both issue one and two are shifting at £7.50+.

Even more recent titles **The Solution** #1 and **Exiles** #1 have started to attract money, both are in excess of £2 each, nearly a 100% increase in little over a month.

Malibu Sun 26, usually free to customers of comic shops has also found a retail value, dealers at three recent northern marts were reported to be selling copies at £5 each, and all for an **Ultraverse 0** coupon.

Dealers and retailers are now indicating that the current issues with **Rune** back-up episodes are flying out of the shops and with **Breakthru** starting at Christmas, expect the Ultraverse to do a Valiant and become top of everyone's new year shopping list. Remember it was during the Barry Windsor-Smith **Archer & Armstrong** and **Unity** crossovers that Valiant became the company they are today.

A cautious word to the dealers, however. Where many are having considerable good fortune selling two or three month old comics for as high as 700% profit, the bubble will burst very quickly if early issues become totally inaccessible.

This factor alone could have contributed greatly to Valiant's recent tumble for the top.

The Marvel Dragon

CHECK out **Marvel Comics Presents** 48-50 for an early glimpse of Erik Larsen's Savage Dragon. Although not actually referred to as Dragon during his three-part Wolverine/Spider-Man story, the character's origin and appearance are incredibly reminiscent of the creation increasingly popular with current Image watchers.

But then, Larsen did say he'd had the idea years ago. Better not let the legal eagles find out, Erik.

Crawling out of the woodwork

NOT SO long ago — just before Image comics was set up, when Marvel and DC had all the top artists in the industry — some of the better-known fan-favourites started to disappear from regular monthly titles.

Adam Hughes helped make

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Please note that sendaways will follow as soon as copies are received from the Publisher and sets will ship when the bulk of the issues are in.

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Justice League America a phenomenal success. Art Adams dazzled us with his **X-Men** annuals and his Gumby adventures. George Perez made **Wonder Woman** a book worth reading and Walt Simonson was making the **Fantastic Four** enjoyable again.

Then nothing. We saw the occasional Perez strip, most notably the successful **Hulk: Future Imperfect**. Hughes did the occasional cover or short for Dark Horse, while Simonson helped design characters for the Ultraverse and wrote Topps Comics **Jurassic Park** adaptation.

Adams, apart from producing **Godzilla** for Dark Horse, remained relatively quiet. Now, all four artists work is going to be seen a lot more over the next twelve months.

Hughes has already started. He filled in for Chris Sprouse on the delightful **Legionnaires** 7 and his back up strip in **Savage Dragon** was very well received with fans.

Perez, as stated, is to co-write and pencil **Breakthru** for Ultraverse and is then set to write and draw his own series for the company. In addition, he is believed to have another superhero project in the works with Marvel and Peter David.

Cyberforce 0 saw the return of Walter Simonson to pencilling and he is said to have plans for a series with DC, as well as working on his creator-owned **Star Slammers** project for Malibu's Bravura line.

Adams has reportedly been redrawing pages from the 6-year delayed **Longshot II**, a four-part series created with Ann Nocenti. Marvel is now planning to release the series some time in 1994. Couple this with the news that Ann Nocenti has returned to the bullpen on a more than freelance basis, and it is no longer a longshot that we will finally see the series.

Art is also releasing his first creator-owned title with Dark Horse's Legend. **Monkeyman and O'Brien** is the story of a super-intellectual ape and his sidekick, who just happens to be the world's second strongest woman. In their dimension hopping and time-travelling they meet up with the type of monsters that only Art Adams can draw.

More 'vamping afoot

FRANK Castle, alias **The Punisher** is to get the treatment. Marvel's vigilante is to undergo changes over the next few months in an attempt to revitalise recently flagging sales.

One of the approaches that Marvel will use on the vigilante's commercial potential is the introduction of all-new Punishers.

Whether Frank is to be pensioned off, replaced or just killed off, remains to be seen. One thing is clear, however: sales on all three Punisher titles are falling, and **Punisher War Zone** is badly behind schedule. If we don't see a change in the Punisher soon, he could return to two regular titles.

This bag kills comics

IT WASN'T until earlier this year that it was realised that comics in prebagged polythene were in great danger of becoming bags full of dust within 20 years unless put in an acid-free bag.

Many collectors and casual buyers felt cheated especially if, when opened, the interior proved to be nothing but a waste of money.

Lightning Comics researched the possibility of bagging its line of comics, but had come across objections about the acidic effect. So it decided that it would be the company to break new ground for publishing honesty.

The October/November-shipping **Judgement Day 2** and **Bloodfire 5** both feature the following warnings on the polythene bag: *Please take this book out of its bag immediately! This bag will not protect it from ageing. Read it and then put it an acid-free bag.*

Lightning is also introducing a preview guide designed to resemble the pictures on the back covers of video boxes. The guide will feature several of the interior graphics, allowing the browser to know exactly what he/she is buying.

But it should be added that unless the quality is as innovative as the idea, Lightning may discover that honesty is not always the best policy.

Platt out of hell

STEPHEN Platt is not a name that many comics readers are familiar with, mainly because hardly anybody appears to be reading **Moon Knight**. The title is now going to comics heaven for a record equalling third time (lifting him up there with Cloak & Dagger, Ka-Zar and Luke-*Hero for Hire-Powerman*-Cage, as a failed concept).

But despite poor sales and irregular quality, **Moon Knight** has thrown up an artist who has taken the US and UK dealers by storm. Issue 55, Stephen Platt's first issue, has become one of the most requested back issues across the country.

Despite none-too-favourable reports from industry professionals, the fans are buying **Moon Knight** 55 for as high as £6 and Platt is being hotly tipped to do a spell on the X-books before the inevitable Image buy-out occurs.

Keep searchin'

COMIC book price guides, particularly the British edition, has sparked a new Sunday pastime of "search the loft for any old comics". Most people have been disappointed to find tatty moth and mice eaten old **Beano's** and **Dandy's**, but not always.

Recently in Manchester a cache of comics was unearthed which would have made even the most cold and calculated dealer foam at the mouth. Among a large collection of pulps from the 1930s upturned in an attic clear out were copies of **Batman** 1-26, **Detective Comics** 27-48, **Action Comics** 3-10 and **Superman** 1-13.

The owner contacted a comic shop, who said they were not interested. So eventually the owner of this find of a lifetime contacted an American dealer who promptly paid $120,000

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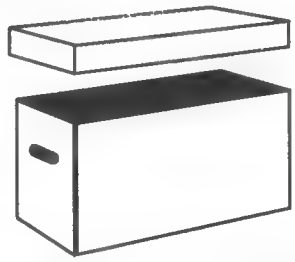

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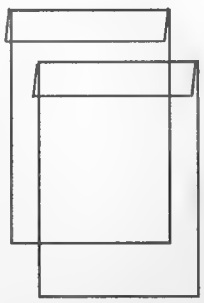

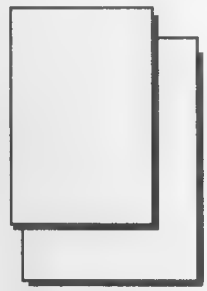

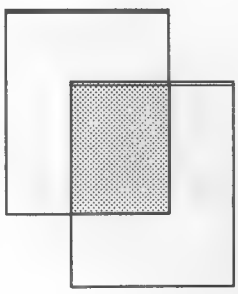

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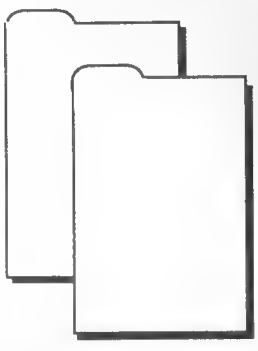

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or £80,000 for them.

One ex-dealer commented that he felt the man had been ripped off, considering the fine to very fine grades the books were in, but how many dealers in this country could have afforded to have bettered that offer?

Silver linings

WHILE dealers of current comics are still worrying over having to play the futures market game of advance ordering, Silver Age dealers are finding that the trend for pre-1970 books continues to grow.

Compal, the mail order auction company, had a tremendous response to the Silver Age books they were offering from their September catalogue.

Notable sales included a fine copy of **Batman** 100 selling for £412, exceeding the British guide price by nearly £70. A very fine copy of **Silver Surfer** 1 selling for £20 more than the Guide values a near mint copy and a fine **Showcase** 34 featuring the first Silver Age Atom selling also higher than guide price.

The auction also saw copies of **Amazing Fantasy** 15, **Fantastic Four** 1, **X-Men** 1 and **Daredevil** 1 selling for higher than the estimated prices.

Compal spokesman Malcolm Phillips was over the moon about the last auction's response, commenting that over 92% of the lots were sold. Now isn't that encouraging for all those people wanting to sell their back issues?

New talent quarterly

ONE of DC's 1994 casualties, **Green Lantern Corps Quarterly** is still very much alive — and making its presence felt in the comics world, regardless of its imminent cancellation.

Despite poor sales and irregular quality, it has occasionally thrown up an issue or two which has been particularly recommendable. First off, there was issue 2, which featured the work of Scott Lobdell, Doug Moench, Paul Gulacy, Dusty Abell and Kirk Jarvinen.

The latest issue, #6 (available in newsagents now), is a veritable who's who of DC's new talented creators, many of whom have been tipped in *Movers & Shakers*.

Under an excellent Jim Balent cover, there is art from Jason Pearson, Travis Charest, Adam Hughes, Balent, Chas Truog and tipped-for-top former **Excalibur** and new **Hawkeye** artist, Scott Kolins. It isn't a bad read either.

If you are in your local newsagent and Alan Scott jumps out of the cover and says spend £2 on this, take his word for it.

Extreme-ly late 'mate

HERALDED as the crossover of the decade, the eagerly awaited **Deathmate** has impressed a lot of disenchanted Image and Valiant fans, whose faith in the companies had been waning with the advent of the Ultraverse and the resurgence of the X-Men titles.

But Image has reinforced its reputation as the late-shipping champions of comics publishing. The Homage studios fourth part, by Image's standards, arrived almost on time, coming out less than a month later than scheduled. Which in an ideal world could have been forgiven. That is of course, had the crossover's third part actually come out earlier.

To date, the Rob Liefeld and Extreme studios part has yet to hit the stands, leaving fans totally bemused and retailers now asking if the entire series can be returnable.

The ironic thing about this scheduling fiasco is that it is Homage studios inability to meet deadlines which has come in for the most bad press. Liefeld's crew, it seems, had started to sort itself out after a poor start.

Art Thibert, recently recruited by Extreme studios to help get the books out on schedule, has, it seems got off to a poor start, not surprising in the wake of his **Cable** series for Marvel!

Daredevil disappears

OUR fledgling Glaswegian ITMite was quick to point out that Daredevil's recent return to popularity coincided with Comag's decision to stop distributing the comic after many years.

The last nationally distributed issue was officially 317, although a few copies of 318 found their way into newsagents.

One of the reasons that the *Fall from Grace* storyline could have been so popular is because fans could no longer obtain copies from their local shop. Demand for the series is still high and one northern dealer recently bought five copies for £5 each, fuelling speculation that the book will continue to rise.

Interestingly enough **Daredevil Man without Fear** issue 2 is proving to be a scarce issue. Although only recently on the comic shop stands, the title was absent from distributors' top fifty charts, despite issue 1 featuring very high and issues 3, 4 and 5 all re-entering the top fifty.

On a recent straw poll of ten shops conducted by one of our ITMites, only one shop had copies of issue two, but nine had copies of issue one. The series is a bonafide hit, latecomers will have to expect to pay a little bit more for the privilege of enjoying this series.

New look at Cable

ONE of DC's most popular prestige mini-series of recent years was **The Psycho** by James Hudnall (whose current **Streets** from DC is must-read). **The Psycho** brought artist Dan Brereton to the attention of the mainstream comics industry and DC signed up 28 year old Dan for the forthcoming Walter Simonson written **Legends of The World's Finest** 3 issue prestige series.

But now Malibu's new Bravura creator owned imprint has lured the artist away to do his own creation **The Nocturnals** as a six issue mini series and in what many fans believe a bizarre choice, Marvel has also signed him up to do **Cable and the Six Pack** mini series, scripted by Fabian Nicieza. Poor old DC.

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BATMAN: GOTHAM BY GASLIGHT

DC COMICS		REG.	OTS
1 shot	DC 1st Print	3.50	1.00

BATMAN:KILLING JOKE

DC COMICS		REG.	OTS
1	1st DC Print Bolland/Moore	6.00	3.00
1	6th Bolland/Moore	2.50	1.00

BATMAN:LEGENDS OF THE DARK KNIGHT

DC COMICS		REG.	OTS
1	ND All Colours	4.25	1.50
2-9	LD No Stickers on cvrs	2.50	0.50
24,26	LD	1.00	0.50
ANNUAL 1	ND GS	2.75	1.00

BLACK KISS

VORTEX		REG.	OTS
1	1ST Print Chaykin Adults	10.00	4.00
1	2nd Print	3.00	1.00
2	1st Print	6.00	3.00
3,4	1st Print	4.50	1.50
2(2nd),3(2nd),5-7		2.00	0.75
8,9	1st Print	2.00	1.00
10,11	1st Print	2.00	0.75
SET OF 1-12 Complete 1st Prints		40.00	15.00

BORIS THE BEAR

DARK HORSE		REG.	OTS
1,3-24		1.50	0.50
BORIS COLOR CLASSICS			
1-3		2.50	0.50
BORIS ADVENTURE MAG		2.00	0.50

CAPTAIN AMERICA

300,328,331,334,339,340,341		1.50	0.50
344,349,354,356,357,359,361		1.14	0.50
634,356,368-383,382,383		1.00	0.50
389,390,395,396		0.75	0.50
ANNUAL 9,10,11		1.50	0.75
DARK HORSE		REG.	OTS

CATWOMAN

DC COMICS MINI		REG.	OTS
1	SCARCE	5.00	2.00
3,4	SCARCE	2.50	0.75
SET OF 1-4 COMPLETE		12.50	5.00

CHEVAL NOIR

DARK HORSE		REG.	OTS
1,2,4 6,8		2.50	1.00

CONCRETE

9,10		1.50	0.50
COLOR SPECIAL 1		2.50	0.75
CONCRETE,LAND & SEA		2.50	0.75
CONCRETE FRAGILE CREATURES			
1,2,3		2.50	0.75
CONCRETE NEW LIFE		2.50	0.75
CONCRETE ODD JOBS SPE		2.50	0.75

CLASSIC X MEN

MARVEL		REG.	OTS
2		2.75	1.50
3		2.50	1.00
4		2.25	1.50
5		2.00	1.00
6		2.00	1.25
7,9		2.25	1.00
10	Wolverine/Sabretooth	4.50	2.00
11-16		1.75	0.75
17		3.00	1.00
18-25		1.75	0.75
26		2.25	1.00
28-32		1.25	0.50
33-38		1.25	0.75
39	ND 2nd Jim Lee X Men	6.00	2.00
40-45,47,49-55,61,62,67		1.00	0.50

DAREDEVIL

MARVEL		REG.	OTS
186	Miller	2.00	1.50
190	Elektra Origin, GS	3.00	2.50
228	Miller/Mazzuchelli	3.50	2.50
233	Miller/Mazzuchelli	2.50	1.50
235-237,239,240		1.25	1.00
241	McFarlane D/D	3.00	2.00
242-247		1.25	0.75
249	WolverineStory	4.00	2.50
250	LD	2.00	0.75
251,252	2nd#252 Fall Mutants	3.00	1.50
253	LD	2.25	1.00
254	LD 1st App.Typhoid Mary	8.00	6.50
255	LD 2nd Typhoid Mary	4.00	3.50
256	LD 3rd Typhoid Mary	4.00	2.50
258	Ron Lim Art	2.00	1.00
259	LD Typhoid Mary	2.00	1.50
260,261	LD Typhid Mary	2.00	0.75
262-273	LD	1.50	0.50
274-278	Acts of Vengence	1.25	0.75
280,282,284,288,295		1.00	0.75
296,300	LD GS#300	1.50	0.50
ANNUAL 4		2.50	1.00
ANNUAL 7		1.25	1.00

DARK HORSE PRESENTS

DARK HORSE		REG.	OTS
3,4		5.00	1.50
7,9,11,13		1.95	0.75
12,14,16		3.00	1.00
15,18,19,21,22,23		2.25	0.75
25,26,27		1.50	0.50
28		3.50	1.00
29,30		1.50	0.50
32		4.50	1.50
33		1.50	0.75
34,35,36	ALIENS/PREDATOR	6.00	2.50
37,39,42-46		1.50	0.50
FUTURES 1		0.75	0.50

DEATHLOCK

MARVEL		REG.	OTS
MINI 1	GIANT ND	4.50	2.75
MINI 2,3	GIANT ND	3.50	2.00
MARVEL		REG.	OTS
1	ND SCARCE	4.00	1.50
2,9	ND SCARCE	2.50	1.00

DEMON

DC COMICS NEW		REG.	OTS
1	LD New Format	2.50	0.50
2-6,8-12		1.25	0.50

DETECTIVE COMICS

DC COMICS		REG.	OTS
526	Anniversary 68pgs	6.00	3.75
535	Intro Robin J.Todd	4.00	3.00
565,567		2.00	1.50
569,570	JOKER	5.50	3.50
571,573		3.25	2.75
579,581,585		1.50	0.50
586,587		1.50	0.75
588-597		1.25	0.50
598-600	Samm Hamm Set	10.50	4.00
598	Pt.1 GS	5.00	2.50
599	Pt.2	2.50	0.75
600	Pt.3 GS	3.00	1.00
601-621		1.00	0.50
622		2.00	1.00
627-629,633-635		0.75	0.50
639,643		0.75	0.50
ANNUAL 1		3.00	1.50
ANNUAL 2		1.75	0.75

DOCTOR STRANGE: SORCERER SUPREME

2-9	Scarce	1.50	0.75
10	Morbius	3.50	1.75
11		1.50	0.75
15-18		1.75	1.00
19,20	Morbius	1.75	0.75
21-27,39		1.50	0.50

DOOM PATROL

DC COMICS		REG.	OTS
19	1ST MORRISON	8.00	4.95
20	2ND MORRISON	5.00	3.95
21,22	MORRISON	4.00	2.50
23,24,25,28	MORRISON	3.50	1.75
31-35	MORRISON	2.00	1.00
36,40,47,40		1.50	0.75
37-39	MORRISON	1.25	0.50

DR. FATE

DC COMICS NEW		REG.	OTS
1-12,16-20		1.00	0.50
ANNUAL 1		1.50	0.50

EXCALIBER

MARVEL		REG	OTS
SPECIAL 1	1ST APPEARANCE	6.25	3.50
1	ND Claremont	6.25	3.50
2,3	ND Davis	4.00	2.50
4	ND Davis	3.50	1.50
5	ND Davis	3.50	2.00
6,7,8	ND Davis	3.00	1.00
8	ND Ron Lim Art	3.00	1.50
10,11	ND Rogers art	1.75	1.00
12,18	ND,LD Davis	1.50	0.75
19,20	LD Davis	1.50	0.50
22,24	LD Davis	1.50	1.00
31,34,35	LD	1.25	0.75
SPECIAL 2,	Mojo Mayhem	3.75	1.75

FANTASIC FOUR

MARVEL		REG.	OTS
299-311		1.50	0.50
313-321	LD	1.25	0.50
322-328,331,332,339,340,346		0.80	0.50
347	1st ND Wolv,Ghost Rider etc.	3.50	2.50
348	1st ND Spidey,Wolv. etc.	1.50	1.00
350	ND GS	1.50	0.75
355,359,360,362		1.00	0.50
ANNUAL 7,10,11	ND	2.00	1.00

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FLAMING CARROT

DARK HORSE		REG.	OTS
18-25	1ST D/H ISSUES	1.75	0.50

GHOST RIDER

MARVEL		REG	OTS
5	Punisher 1st Print	8.00	4.00
6	Punisher 1st Print	5.00	3.00
7-10	Scarce	3.50	2.00
11,13	Scarce	2.00	1.50
15	Glow in the dark 1st Print	5.00	2.50
18		1.50	1.00
21-24		1.25	0.75
25	GS Pop up cover	2.50	1.00
Ghost Rider Rides Again 2,3		2.50	0.75

GIVE ME LIBERTY

1,4	GS FRANK MILLER	3.50	1.50
3	GS MILLER	2.75	1.00

GODZILLA

SET OF 1-6 COMPLETE		15.00	5.00
1	SCARCE	4.00	1.00
2-5	SCARCE	2.00	0.75

GROO

EPIC-MARVEL		REG.	OTS
34-38	ND	1.75	0.75
42-47,51,52,54,55		1.25	0.50
GROO CHRONICLES			
SET OF #1-6 COMPLETE		20.00	7.50

GREEN LANTERN. EMERALD DAWN

1	SCARCE	6.00	2.50
2-4,6	SCARCE	3.00	0.75

HAVOK & WOLVERINE

MARVEL		REG.	OTS
1,4	ND GS	3.50	1.50
2,3	ND GS	2.50	1.25

HAWK & DOVE

DC COMICS MINI		REG.	OTS
1	ROB LIEFELD	6.00	1.50
2,3,4	LIEFELD'S BEST	4.00	1.00
SET OF #1-5 COMPLETE		21.00	5.00

HELLBLAZER

DC COMICS		REG.	OTS
1	SCARCE	10.00	7.50
2	SCARCE	6.00	3.50
10-19	SCARCE	3.00	2.00
21-25		1.75	1.50
28-32		1.75	1.25
36,37		1.25	1.00
ANNUAL 1		2.50	1.75

INCREDIBLE HULK

MARVEL		REG.	OTS
314,315,317,318,319,320		1.50	0.50
324	1st Grey Hulk	5.00	3.50
325,326		3.00	1.75
327		1.25	0.75
336,337	1st McFarlane X Factor	6.00	4.00
338,339	McFarlane X Factor	4.50	2.50
340	McFarlane Wolverine	15.00	12.50
341-344	McFarlane	4.00	2.00
345	McFarlane Gs LD	6.50	3.50
346	McFarlane	2.50	1.50
347-349	Purves Begins	1.75	0.75
350	Hulk Vs. Thing	2.50	1.50
351-360,362-365	Scarce	1.50	0.75
361	Iron Man battles Hulk	1.25	1.00
368		1.50	1.00
372	Green Hulk Keown	5.50	3.50
373,374	Keown art	3.00	2.00
375,378	Keown	3.00	1.50
376	Keown Green Vs. Grey	5.00	3.75
379	Keown	3.50	2.50
380-385	Keown	1.50	0.75
386-389	Keown	1.50	1.00
391	Keown	1.00	0.50
ANNUAL 15,16,22,23		2.00	1.00

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MARVEL		REG.	OTS
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153,158,159,161,165,207,216		1.50	1.00
218,220		1.00	0.50
224,225gs	Armour Wars	3.00	1.00
226-231,233		2.25	1.00
232	LD, Smith Art	2.50	1.50
234-244	New Armour#244	1.00	0.50
246-253		1.00	0.50
254-258,264,275,276		0.75	0.50
ANNUAL 8,10		2.50	1.50
ANNUAL 9,11,12		1.75	1.00

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1	SCARCE	6.00	2.50
2	SCARCE	5.00	2.50
3		3.25	1.50
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26,29,30,33,35-37,40,44,51,61		1.00	0.50
ANNUAL 1,2,3,4		2.50	0.75
LEGENDS 6 1ST APP,JLA		5.00	1.00

LOBO

DC COMICS 1ST MINI		REG.	OTS
1 1ST Pr.ND BISLEY HOT!		2.50	0.75
2	ND Bisley Hot!	1.50	0.75
3	ND Bisley Hot!	1.25	1.00

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19-22	ND Punisher	2.00	0.75
23,24	ND	1.00	0.50
25	ND Ghost Rider GS	2.50	1.00
26-29,35,36		1.00	0.50

MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS

MARVEL		REG.	OTS
1	ND Wolverine begins	5.00	3.00
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31,36,37	ND Excaliber	1.25	0.50
38	ND Wolverine	2.00	1.00
39-47	ND, Wolverine	1.25	0.75
48-51	ND Wolverine/Spidey	2.00	1.00
72	LD Weapon X Pt.1	5.00	2.50
73-81,83	LD, Weapon X	2.50	1.50
82,84	LD Weapon X	1.50	0.75
85	ND 1st Jae Lee&Keith Wol	3.50	0.75
88,89	ND Keith Wolverine	1.50	0.50
91-95	ND Keith Wolverine	1.50	0.75

MECHA

DARK HORSE		REG.	OTS
1-6	SCARCE	2.00	0.50

MIRACLEMAN

ECLIPSE		REG.	OTS
14-16	SCARCE	2.00	0.50
17	SCARCE	3.00	1.00
18,19	SCARCE	2.00	0.50

MR MONSTER

DARK HORSE		REG.	OTS
1-5		2.00	0.50

NAMOR

MARVEL		REG.	OTS
1	BYRNE	2.50	1.25
2,3	BYRNE	1.75	1.00
4	BYRNE	1.25	0.75
5-7,9,11		1.00	0.50
12	BYRNE 1st Invaders	2.00	1.00
13,14,18		1.00	0.50
21	Iron Fist	1.25	0.75
22	Wolverine	1.25	0.75
24	Wolverine Vs. Namor	1.75	1.00

NEW MUTANTS

18,43-47,49-51		1.50	0.75
52-58		1.00	0.50
59,60	FALL MUTANTS ND	2.00	0.50
61-63	#63 XMEN Clones	1.25	0.75
64,65		1.00	0.50
66-79	#71-73 Inferno,#75 Byrne	1.25	0.50
80		1.00	0.75
81-84		1.00	0.50
89	3rd Cable, Liefeld	8.50	6.00
94	Wolverine Vs. Cable	8.00	6.00
96,97	XTinction 1st prints	5.50	3.50
100	1st Print, Liefeld,gs,ND	4.00	2.75
100	2nd Print Gold,gs,ND	2.00	1.50
100	3rd Print Silver,gs,ND	1.50	1.25
ANNUAL 1,4		3.00	1.50
ANNUAL 5	ND,GS,1st Liefeld	6.50	2.50
ANNUAL 6		2.50	1.00
Summer Special 1		2.50	1.00

NICK FURY:AGENT OF SHIELD

1	SCARCE	1.75	0.75
2-11,13,15,31		1.00	0.50

NOMAD

1	SCARCE ND	2.50	1.00
2,3	ND	1.50	0.75

PREDATOR

DARK HORSE		REG.	OTS
2	1st Pr.1st SERIES	6.00	3.00
3	1st Pr.1st SERIES	4.00	2.00
4	1st Pr.1st SERIES	3.50	1.50

PREDATOR 2

DARK HORSE		REG.	OTS
1	MOVIE SPECIAL	2.50	0.75

PREDATOR: BIG GAME

DARK HORSE		REG.	OTS
1	1st Print	2.00	1.00
2,3	1st Print	1.25	0.75

PREDATOR: COLD WAR

DARK HORSE		REG.	OTS
4		1.50	0.50

PUNISHER

MARVEL		REG.	OTS
4	ND	5.00	2.00
5	ND	5.00	3.00
11,12	ND Portacio	4.00	2.00
13,14	LD Portacio	4.00	1.75
15-18	LD Portacio	4.00	1.50
19	LD Stroman 1 shot	3.50	1.50
20		3.00	1.50
21		2.25	1.00
23		2.25	0.75
24	LD Shadowmasters	3.25	1.50
26	LD GIANT	2.50	1.00
26-30	#28,29 Acts Vengence	1.50	0.75
31-51	#50 GS	1.25	0.50
ANNUAL 2	Jim Lee Atlantis	3.00	1.00
ANNUAL 3		1.50	0.75

PUNISHER ARMOURY

1	1st print ND	2.50	1.00

PUNISHER WAR JOURNAL

MARVEL		REG.	OTS
1	ND Origin Retold	9.50	5.00
2	ND	5.50	3.50
3	ND	4.75	2.50
4	ND	3.50	2.00
5	ND	3.50	2.00
6	ND Wolverine Pt.1	6.50	4.50
7	ND Wolverine Pt.1	4.25	2.00
8-14	ND	2.50	1.00
15-19	ND	1.75	1.25
20-32,35,36	ND	1.50	0.75

PUNISHER WAR ZONE

1	ND Die Cut Bullet Cvr	1.75	1.00

QUASAR

MARVEL		REG.	OTS
1	SCARCE	1.50	0.75
3,7-15,18,20,25		1.00	0.50

ROACHMILL

DARK HORSE		REG.	OTS
5,7,9		1.75	0.50

ROBOCOP I

MARVEL		REG.	OTS
1	ND	2.75	1.00
2-12	ND,VOL2 #1	2.00	0.50
VOL.2		REG	OTS

SANDMAN

DC COMICS		REG.	OTS
4,5	SCARCE	3.00	2.50
8	1ST DEATH	7.50	3.50
11,15	Dolls House Pt.2,6	2.50	2.00
331,32,34, SPECIAL 1		2.50	1.00

SHADE

DC COMICS-current		REG.	OTS
1	LD Scarce	5.00	2.50
2,3,9,17,18 LD		2.00	1.00

SHE HULK

MARVEL Current		REG.	OTS
1	BYRNE	1.50	0.75
2-15	BYRNE	1.25	0.50
SET OF 1-15 COMPLETE		18.00	6.99
SHE HULK - CEREMONY 1		2.50	1.00

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SILVER SURFER

MARVEL		REG.	OTS
2	ND Rogers	3.50	2.50
5	LD Rogers	1.50	1.00
6-9	LD Rogers	2.00	0.50
10	LD Rogers	1.50	1.00
11-14	LD Rogers	1.50	0.50
15	LD 1st Ron Lim	4.50	2.00
16	LD 2nd Ron Lim	2.50	1.50
17,18	Ron Lim	1.75	1.00
19	Ron Lim, Firelord Battles	2.25	0.75
20	Ron Lim	1.75	1.00
21-24	Ron Lim	1.75	0.50
25	GS	2.00	1.00
27-33	Ron Lim	1.50	0.50
34	Starlin,1st Thanos	6.50	4.50
36	History of Thanos	3.25	2.50
37	1st App. Drax	1.75	1.00
38	Silver Surfer Vs. Thanos	4.00	2.00
39-44	Starlin/Lim	1.75	0.75
45	Thanos, Scarce	4.00	1.50
46,48	Thanos	2.50	1.00
50	1st print, Silver Cover gs	4.50	1.00
52	Starlin/Lim	2.00	0.75
53-61,63	Starlin/Lim	1.50	0.50
ANNUAL 1	1st Ron Lim	5.00	2.50
ANNUAL 2,3,4		2.50	1.00
THANOS QUEST 1 1ST		7.50	6.00
THANOS QUEST 2 1ST		5.00	4.00
MOBIUS MINI 1,2		3.00	1.00

SPIDERMAN

MARVEL, All ND		REG.	OTS
1	Silver & Black Cvr	3.50	1.99
1	Green & Purple cvr	2.75	1.75
1	Gold Cover scarce	3.00	2.50
2	SCARCE	3.00	2.50
3	McFarlane	3.00	1.50
4,5	McFarlane	2.50	1.025
Set of all 3 #1's and 2-5		20.00	10.00
6,7 1st	McFa.Ghost Rider	3.00	1.00
8	McFarl.Wolverine Pt.1	1.75	0.75
9,12,15,20	McFarlane	1.50	1.00

STAR TREK

16 DIFFERENT STAR TREKS		25.00	8.99
Next Gen Mini Set 1-4		9.00	5.00

SUPERMAN

1,2,4-6,11,12,36,38,47		1.00	0.50
50	1st Print gs Engagement	4.00	0.50
51,58,63		0.75	0.50

SWAMP THING

DC COMICS		REG.	OTS
36,37,38,43		3.00	1.00
45,47		1.50	0.75
50,52,56		2.00	1.00
27-66,84,97,117		0.75	0.50

TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES

25 different Turtles pack		29.99	7.50

TERMINATOR

DARK HORSE		REG.	OTS
SET OF 1-4 COMPLETE		12.00	4.00
1	Scarce	4.50	1.00
2,3	scarce	2.50	0.75
TERMINATOR Wagner 1 shot		4.50	1.50

TERMINATOR: THE ENEMY WITHIN

1,2,3		1.75	0.75

TERMINATOR: SECONDARY OBJECTIVES

2,4		1.75	0.75

THANOS QUEST

MARVEL		REG.	OTS
1	ND GS Starlin 1st Print	7.50	6.00
2	ND GS Starlin 1st print	5.00	4.00

THOR

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Something I'm personally very proud about in connection with ***Comics International*** *is the way it has grown over the last four years to such a point that it now rivals its long-established US counterpart,* ***The Comics Buyer's Guide****, both in page count and circulation.*

The UK industry has had many news titles in the past, from the modest 1960s fanzine ***Oracle*** *through to the 1970s'* ***Comic Media News*** *and, in the 1980s,* ***Speakeasy****. But by the end of the '80s, I believed the market had grown into a large enough market for a comprehensive trade paper, similar to other industry titles,* ***Screen International, The Stage, Campaign*** *and such like. Your response has reinforced my faith.*

So consider this to be a special thank you note, to advertisers, retail outlets, and you the reader.

Through advance ad bookings, we're now at the stage where our printers are juggling with alternative plans for issue 40 (next February) which currently stands at a mammoth 144 pages. The damned staples just refuse to go through that much paper so we may end up perfect-bound. All this, plus Peter David's column starting next month, and still no price increase on the horizon. What an industry! ... *Dez Skinn/Editor*

Ron Bennett, Skyrack Book Service
Leeds, Yorkshire

LIVING as I do in a comic-world island where there just ain't the "behind the scenes" feedback, it's marvellous to have something like **Comics International**. All its inside knowledge acts to reinforces the vague feelings I have about the state of the market, and the state of mind of those who manipulate it. Of course it doesn't always reinforce my opinions... There've been many instances when you've set me on completely new tracks.

And I do, I'm afraid, live in this little "island". I rarely go to marts these days. There's the Leeds mart just across the road, which is virtually pointless as it is just across the road. I'm unable to drive to marts in Manchester, Liverpool and London and I would love to attend a Titan open day, but again driving is out of the question and I really don't fancy the schlep by rail.

I'm forced to wonder whether it would be worthwhile anyway. In San Diego a couple of years ago I sat in a discussion group chewing over "The Problems of Running a Small Store" in the hope that I might find solutions to the problems, only to find that the entire time, the entire time, dammit, was taken up with everyone moaning about their problems. All of which were virtually identical, and all of which were also mine. Well, it was nice to have my thoughts reinforced there, too, but it wasn't a help.

Ron, possibly this country's first comics dealer, is about to retire from the industry. Perhaps none the wiser after these 30-odd years, his dry acerbic wit has won him many friends who wish him all the best in his retirement. *(Dez)*

Mike Kidson, 40 Marmion Rd,
Liverpool L17

I DID feel that you were too dismissive of the girls' comics, even though they're obviously not of interest to most **Comics International** readers (*Preview Special*, **Comics International** 36). Besides **Bunty**, DC Thomson also produce **Mandy & Judy** and a number of digest-sized picture story monthlies for girls. This is an area of comics publishing that Fleetway have finally abandoned, following decades of competition — in fact, might it be fair to assume that the traditional competition between the Amalgamated Press (and its successors Fleetway, IPC and Fleetway again) and Thomson has ceased to exist?

Thomson, once the outrageous upstart of British comics, is now just about the only company producing anything like the kind of comic developed by Harmsworth, Newnes and others over a hundred years ago.

Turning around to look at the future, Lew Stringer's point about the need for a new type of children's comic is absolutely spot on. While **The Beano** will presumably continue for a while, its sales figures drop every passing year, as do those of the girls' titles. The amalgamation two and a half years ago of the 30-year old titles **Judy** and **Mandy** into a single comic is as much a case in point as the quiet demise of **The Beezer**. Perhaps even more of one — the Thomson humour titles were all aimed at an undifferentiated children's market, whereas Thomson's three leading girls' titles had long been aimed at different age groups.

The conflation of their late primary school and early secondary school comics into a single title is a very clear indication of recent alterations in juvenile readership demographics.

We seem to have reached a pc'nt where the traditional style of British comics no longer appeals, and it looks as though the industry is faced with three options — imitate the American methods, lapse into extinction, or innovate. Let's hope they decide to plump for the third option.

Perhaps a fourth option for the future is the realisation that old boundaries are fast crumbling. Some criticise Fleetway over its parent company's desire for new titles which will have a more European flavour, but if the American market continues to demand ever more new titles it will need more creators than the US alone can provide.

British comics may have been all but replaced by reprints and Euro-titles, but if we forget our nationalism, let's be thankful that the market is now far more open for new styles and new talent, whatever country may be buying. *(Dez)*

Sergio Perciballi,
3 Eastfield Gr, Peterborough

LOOKING at *Reviews*, **Comics International 35**, it seems that Peter C Phillips (PCP) had a bad day. He increased his share of zeros four fold. This month's newspaper sees PCP give eight zeros to the comics he reviewed. The only other zero was by Fabio Paolo Barbieri (FPB).

If the marking system is between 1 and 10, what exactly does zero mean? Bog paper?

Also, in the review of **Silver Angel** 1, I noticed the comic is produced by reviewer FPB. I think to have one reviewer's comic reviewed by other reviewers on the team is a little incestuous.

The inclusion of zero ratings is something we have corrected. A good point, Sergio, thanks for mentioning it. Despite a system of extremes between one and ten, some reviewers have even tried to include minus scores. Obviously their previous highs and lows have been exceeded by more recent titles, but a modicum of restraint is now being exercised.

But as our reviewers are spread across the country and rarely show bias, to disallow reviews of such titles as ***Silver Angel, Zum, Mutant Media*** *or* ***The Jock*** *because other reviewers produce them would sadly deplete our team.* *(Dez)*

Art Young, Vertigo Senior Editor,
Warner House, 135 Wardour St, London

I RECENTLY saw your article on Vertigo, Epic and Frontier in **Comics International** 36 and I just wanted to clarify a few points.

While there have been "big, major" changes for Epic and Frontier ("postponed" and "on hold", respectively), Vertigo has fared better in the current market glut than all the other experimental/mature readers lines, and better than a lot of mid-level mainstream titles as well. Although some months may now see only one new Vertigo title debut, most will still carry two.

All the other Vertigo changes you cite are creative decisions that have nothing to do with reactions to the "mainstream explosion": **Scarab** was shortened because of story considerations. Neil Gaiman has been planning **The Sandman**'s end before the Vertigo imprint was even created. The revamp of **Doom Patrol** and new writer(s) on **Swamp Thing** are due to a departing artist and a departing writer, respectively.

Thanks for letting me set the record straight that even in these times of market saturation, Vertigo is still healthy and going strong. We thank our readers for that momentum.

Ian Garrard, Fore Street,
Pinner, Middlesex

I'M WRITING to ask what on earth is happening to **Excalibur** now that Scott Lobdell is handling the scripts. In 20 years of Marvel reading, I have never been more annoyed and disappointed than with the recent "developments". I hope I am not alone in feeling that he has totally ruined the uniqueness of the group through some particularly poor writing, which at some points made very little sense.

Writing out Captain Britain in between issues, one of the team's founding members, was inexcusable. Linked with this is Meggan's continued role in the group: from the splash page in issue 71 it appears she will remain within the team, but she just would not be able to function without Captain Britain having some role in her life.

I don't mean this in a patronising way, but the two characters are too strongly joined to separate. To expect any reader with knowledge of their backgrounds to accept this is unbelievable and her motivation for remaining in the team is pointless.

Cerise was a lot luckier in that at least we got to see her departure, but to pension her off to the Shi'Ar Empire was stretching credulity to breaking point. And Kylun, one of the most promising new characters, is also written out in between issues, why?

Everything Chris Claremont, Alan Davis and Mark Farmer had achieved with the team has been invalidated and destroyed by these actions.

The return of Brian and Kylun is a must if Marvel do not want to lose the core **Excalibur** audience. Holograms do not make up for the last few issues. Marvel must sort out the writing and art so the book regains some stability if this new team is to survive.

LETTERS

COMICS INTERNATIONAL's letters column is your forum for opinion on publications, writers, artists, prices, market trends and anything else connected with the industry. As such, opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the publisher. Letters intended for publication will only be edited as a grammatical or space consideration. Please to certain to include your name and full address, anonymous letters will not be published.

Comics International Letters, 8 Trinity Road, London N2 8JJ

Steve Wild, 1 Chaster Street, Batley, W Yorkshire

With regard to John Miller's letter last issue (**Comics International** 36) concerning those fabulous Marvel monsters of the Kirby era: I enclose a photocopy of the splash page from **Strange Tales Annual** 1 (1962). It's not clear whether or not *this* monster's wearing swimming trunks — but with a name like Shagg, they might've cramped his style somewhat!

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Bargains! 20%-40% below price guide — **Akira**, **Aliens**, **Batman**, **Daredevil**, **DHP**, **Death's Head**, **Detective Comics**, **Dr Strange**, **Excalibur**, **Ex-Mutants**, **Fantastic Four**, **Ghost Rider**, **Grendel**, **Hellblazer**, **Hulk**, Image, **Iron Man**, **JLA**, **Namor**, **Next Men** **Ray**, **Superman**, **Sandman**, **Spawn**, **Thor**, Ultraverse, **Uncanny X-Men**, Valiant, Vertigo, **What If?**, **WildC.A.T.S**, **Wolverine**, **X-Factor**, etc. Knightfall set 0-19 £27.50; **Sword of Azrael** 1-4 £18.50; **Vengeance of Bane** £12.50; **Hellblazer** 1 £10; **Sandman** 8 £7; **Showcase '93** 7 8 £2.50; **FF** 371 £2.75; **Namor** 26 £7.25; **Platinum Superman 75** £85; **Darkhawk** 1 £8; **Trial of Venom** £12.50; **Grendel War Child** 1 £3.75; **Spawn** 4 £6.50; **Magnus: Robot Fighter** 12 £40. Send a large SAE for strictly graded 50 page sale list to: AMJ Comics, 64 Invicta Road, Margate, Kent CT9 3SJ. Cobra member

Collection for sale. From Golden Age (eg. Captain America) to present day. Dell/Gold Key/EC/Timely/Marvel/DC also, Original artwork/Animation/toys/trade & gum cards. Plus Beatles and **Doctor Who**, etc. Send SAE to: A Holliday, 4 Meridian Road, Bristol BS6 6EG.

Ultra Rare - **UNICEF Spider-Man Trial of Venom Special Edition**. Individually numbered with poster & backing card, still sealed in the original UNICEF/Marvel packaging. Only £75 including P&P. Phone 0453 543258 between 7-10pm and ask for Justin, or leave a message during the day.

Attention Marvel comics collectors. Ex-private collector has many Silver Age titles for sale. **Fantastic Four** 1 onwards; **X-Men** 1 onwards; **Avengers** 1 onwards; **Journey Into Mystery** 83 onwards; **Tales to Astonish** 26 onwards. All in high collectable condition. Phone with the title and number for your collection: 0533 867770.

Hundreds of Marvel comics! Top creators/characters. All the Image boys early work, sought after mutant books, Spidey and **Daredevil**. Cheapest on offer in this issue. Private collector. Decent books only! Small SAE for quick, easy list! to: M Jones, 4 Crane Park Road, Whitton, Middx TW2 6DF.

Prime Ultraverse cardboard stand-up (5ft tall) £25.95 inc.P&P; **Flash** jacket (very limited promo item) £69.95 ono; Original artwork: **Incredible Hulk** 334, page 1, signed by Todd McFarlane £40; Ultraverse card sets £10.95; **Deep Space Nine** 1 £2; **Doctor Mirage** 1 gold £10.00; **Ghost Rider** (1990) 2 3 4 £3, 8 10 14 15 £1.50; **Faust** 2 4 6 (1st prints) £3; **New Mutants** 89 90 91 98 £2; **Omega Men** 3 (1st Lobo) £3.50; **Shadowman** 8 (1st Darque) £3, 16 (1st Mirage) £2; **Solar** 1 £5.95, 14 £4.95; **Grendel Warchild** 1 & 2 signed by Matt Wagner £4.95 ea. Contact: Anthony on 051 632 4640.

For sale at 75% dealer price: **Magnus** 3, 9-29; **New Mutants** 86, 90, 91, 95-97, 100; **Wolverine** 2, 41, 42, 48-50; **Hulk** 367-400; **X-Men** 250-301; **Solar** 11-30; **Marvel Comics**

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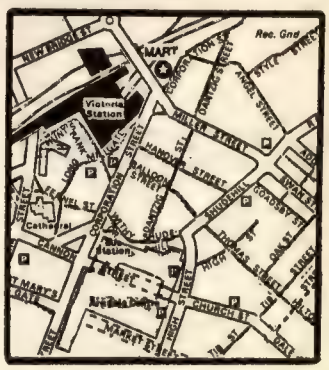

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Presents 72-85; **Punisher** 1, 2; **Harbinger** 1-22; **Ral** 0; **Thanos Quest**; **Infinity Gauntlet, Infinity Crusade**; **Death's Head II** (mini); **Lobo** (mini); **Unity**; most Image first issues, other key Valiants, **Aliens v Predator** (mini). No postage on orders over £20+. Offers to: Duncan on 0224 823686.

Disney limited edition, hand coloured, framed etchings for sale. **Mickey Mouse, Donald Duck, Goofy, Pluto, Winnie the Poo** and **Aladdin** characters. For full details: Conquistador, 158 Kent House Rd, Beckenham, Kent BR3 1JY or 081 659 9714.

Thousands of Marvel/DC/Valiant/Image at low prices. all vfn-nm, all 60p: **Mojo Mayhem; Nomad** 1; **Punisher POV** 1 2; **Silver Sable** 1; **Demon** 1; **Doomforce Special**; various annuals. All £1: **Deathlok** 1; **Weaveworld**; **Wolverine** 50; **X-Men** 281 245; **Spider-Man**/X-annuals; **Deathstroke** 1; **Predator** 3 4; **Hulk** 343 344 373-5 £2; **New Mutants** 87 £15; **New Warriors** 2 £6; **Amazing Spider-Man** 344-6 360 £3; **Spectacular** 147 £3.50; **X-Factor** 1 £3.50; **X-Men** 256 257 267 annual 14 £4, 266 £8; **Shadowhawk** 1(no coupon) £4.50; **Magnus** 2 £12; SAE for list 9: Chris Lawn, 28 Delph Lane, Leeds LS6 2HQ.

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Pre-Unity Valiants, Image's hottest titles, rare Dark Horse featuring Sigourney Weaver's worst nightmare, the return of Like Skywalker and Arnie's best roles, all for sale. NM condition, only one copy of each, all must go. Send SAE to Mark Chadbourne, 3 High St, Packington, Ashby-de-la-Zouch, LE65 1WJ.

WANTED

Advertisers are reminded that Wanted advertisements must be no longer than 50 words, and that single private ads only can be published free of charge.

Wanted: **Marvel Superhero Women**, part of **Origins & Sons of Origins** series. Name your price. Tel: Steve 0742 475349.

Wanted: **Tom Puss Comics** (Birn Brothers) will pay £150, **Panda Comics** (Birn Brothers) £100, **Tom Puss in Rhymeland** £100, **Jack and Jill** all colour gift books (by Annette Mills) £40, write: Piet Koudenburg, Cortenhoeve 14, 2411 JM Bodegraven NL. The Netherlands.

Wanted: will pay 3p per card for the following sets (any quantity)**Dracula/Aliens 3/ Hellraiser/Jurassic Park/Batman Animated/Batman Returns**. Send cards or lists to: Wiggz, "Llamedos", 114 Falkland Rd, Popley 3, Basingstoke, Hants RG24 9PL.

Wanted: any **Transformers** comics. UK or US (especially both issue ones) and any Marvel UK comics (ie: **Motormouth, Hells Angel**, etc.). To swap: **Magneto** 0, **New Mutants** 87, lots of Image & much more. For full list, send your swap lists to: J Gale, 27 Kempsthorn Cres, Pollok, Glasgow G53 5SU Wanted in at least VG condition: **Amazing Heroes** 27 and 41; **Comics Feature** 5. If anyone can help, please write with details to: Michael Connolly, 44 Blackwatertown Road, Armagh, Co. Armagh, N. Ireland, BT61 8EZ. Contact by mail only, please. Thanks to eveyone who replied to my previous ads.

Wanted: early Valiants especially **Rai** 0-9, **X-O, Solar** and a set of **Unity**. Will exchange with my **Batman** 492 platinum. Defiant albums & cards also wanted (must be 1sts). **Image 0** also wanted. Phone Ian with your swaps on 0932 247313.

Issue 2 of **2000AD** required in any condition. Also required; any Judge Dredd computer games or Judge Dredd records and picture discs by rock group Anthrax. Very good prices paid for any of these items. Please call Justine on 081 886 6933.

Wanted: **Wizard** sealed gold cards. Have you got any of the following: **Spawn, Cyberforce**, Image Jam 1 & 2 or **Youngblood Zero**? Also wanted: **PlasmZero** embossed card numbers 1 & 2. Name your price! Phone 0733 266719 (24hr answer phone) Loadsa cash waiting.

Wanted: **Electra: Assassin** trade paperback; **Comics Journal** 117; Frank Frazetta Book 5; **Creepy** 64. Phone James on 081 517 6664.

Wanted: Ditko original artwork, preferably 1953-1966 for cash/trade against key Marvel Silver Age Comics. P Lonsdale, 13 Bramham Gardens, Earls Court, London SW5.

Wanted US underground comics - **Skull, Slow Death, Zap**, etc. and associated material. Also any Richard Corben, particularly **Bloodstar & Jeremy Brood**. Jeremy Pick, 8 High St, Bloxham, Banbury, Oxon OX15 4LT or tel: 0295 721379.

Wanted: **Animato** 26 (Batman animated issue); **Tomarts Action Figure Digest** 6 (Star Wars issue); Star Wars trilogy related **Cinefex, Prevue, Cinefantastique**, paperbacks, prestige art/design/production books, figures, vehicles and 12" dolls. Phone Richard on 0532 585560 before 7pm, giving full details of items name/s and conditions.

Wanted: **Secret Society of Super-Villains** 9 — will someone please take pity on a desperate Sad Boy so he can get on witrh the rest of his life. Phone Gordon Smith on 081 572 8101 x211 or 0784 256203. 14 St Annes Ave, Stanwell, Staines, Middx TW19 7RN.

Wanted any **Batman** related title or appearance, also any **Showcase** and **Brave and The Bold** issues. Also any **Daredevil** issues between 1-200, any condition considered. Send lists and prices for your comics to: Colin Thomson, 10 Seil Drive, Simshill, Glasgow G44 5DZ.

Wanted: **Daredevil** 319 & 320; **Dragonforce** 1 & 2 in vg condition. Will swap any of the following: **Magneto** 0; **Deadpool** 1; **Tribe** 1; **Doom 2099** 1; **Secret Defenders** 1; **Lethal Foes of Spider-Man** 1, **Sabretooth** 1; **Venom: Lethal Protector** 1. Contact: Tony on 081 302 3196 after 1.00pm.

Wanted: **Bladerunner** related items - comic adaptation, sketchbook, movie magazine, art of, Ertl toy cars from film. Write to: J Lancaster, 32 Grove St, Barnsley, S Yorks S71 1EX, with condition and prices.

Small selection of Silver Age Marvels and a small selection of recent Marvels. Also a small list of Gold Key comics for sale. Send SAE to: Pamela Johnson, 24 Bracken Court, Ushaw Moor, Durham DH7 7NF.

Wanted: any Image, **Concrete, Legends of the Dark Knight, L.E.G.I.O.N, Grendel**, Ultraverse. Exchange for: Triumphant ashcans, Heavy Hitters, Milestone, 2099, **Justice League, Thor**, & trading cards. Also **Sabretooth** 1 with repeated pages. Contact: Gary l'Anson, 52 Tristram Ave, Hartlepool, Cleveland TS25 5PA or tel: 0429 861255

Wanted in at least VG condition: **Amazing Heroes** 27 & 41; **Comics Feature** 5. If anyone can help, write (mail only please) with details of condition, prices etc to: Michael Connolly, 44 Blackwatertown Road, Armagh Co. Armagh, N. Ireland, BT61 8EZ. Thanks to everyone who responded to my previous ads.

Wanted Archie comics, digests, posters and toys. Blighty mags from 1947 or later. **Blondie, Dagwood** and **Beetle Bailey.** State price. Mrs Y L Martin, 88 Thomlinson Ave, Carlisle CA2 7JZ.

Original artwork by Neal Adams (**X-Men, Avengers, GL/GA, Batman**, etc.) very good prices paid for good examples. Also artwork by Frank Bellamy, especially colour strips. Phone: 081 291 0218 (ansaphone at times).

Professional fanboy seeks the first nine issues of **Bone**, will pay loads (I'm good that way) write me baby, write me! Steve, Flat 3/2, 143 Wildersue St, Glasgow G3 7AW.

Wanted: **Tor** (Epic) 1-4; **Savage Dragon** vol 1: 3 & 4; **X-Men Guide to the Mansion**; **Sabretooth** 3; **Feud** 1-4; **New Warriors** 38; Englehart/Rogers **Detective Comics** plus any work by 1970s underground artist Tim Byrd. Contact: Phil Hall, 3 Ashfield Road, Wellingborough, Northants NN8 3JG.

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Cartoonists/writers required to produce football related adult humour strips for new comic magazine. Send samples of artwork/scripts (photocopies only) to DK Sports Media, 30c Greenland Road, Camden Town, London NW1 0AY.

A new fanzine will be available from December 8th, **The Ant's Own Tram Wheel**, the zine with a sense of humour! If you want a preview copy send a 24p SAE to Matthew Lawrenson, 99 Thistleberry Ave, Westlands, Newcastle Under Lyme, Staffs, ST5 2LR

Serious, but unpublished writer, looking for photo-realist artist/s (near Edinburgh helps) b&w or colour, to collaborate on very different "superhero" strips and a SF strip. Both for submission to anyone. Samples to Derek, 28/4 Ferry Road Ave, Edinburgh EH4 4BA.

Desperately seeking artists! Artists needed for established small-press comic. Send samples to: David Metcalfe, 9 Ethel Street, Barnoldswick, Lancs BB8 6BB. Writers can apply too if they want, I'm not fussy.

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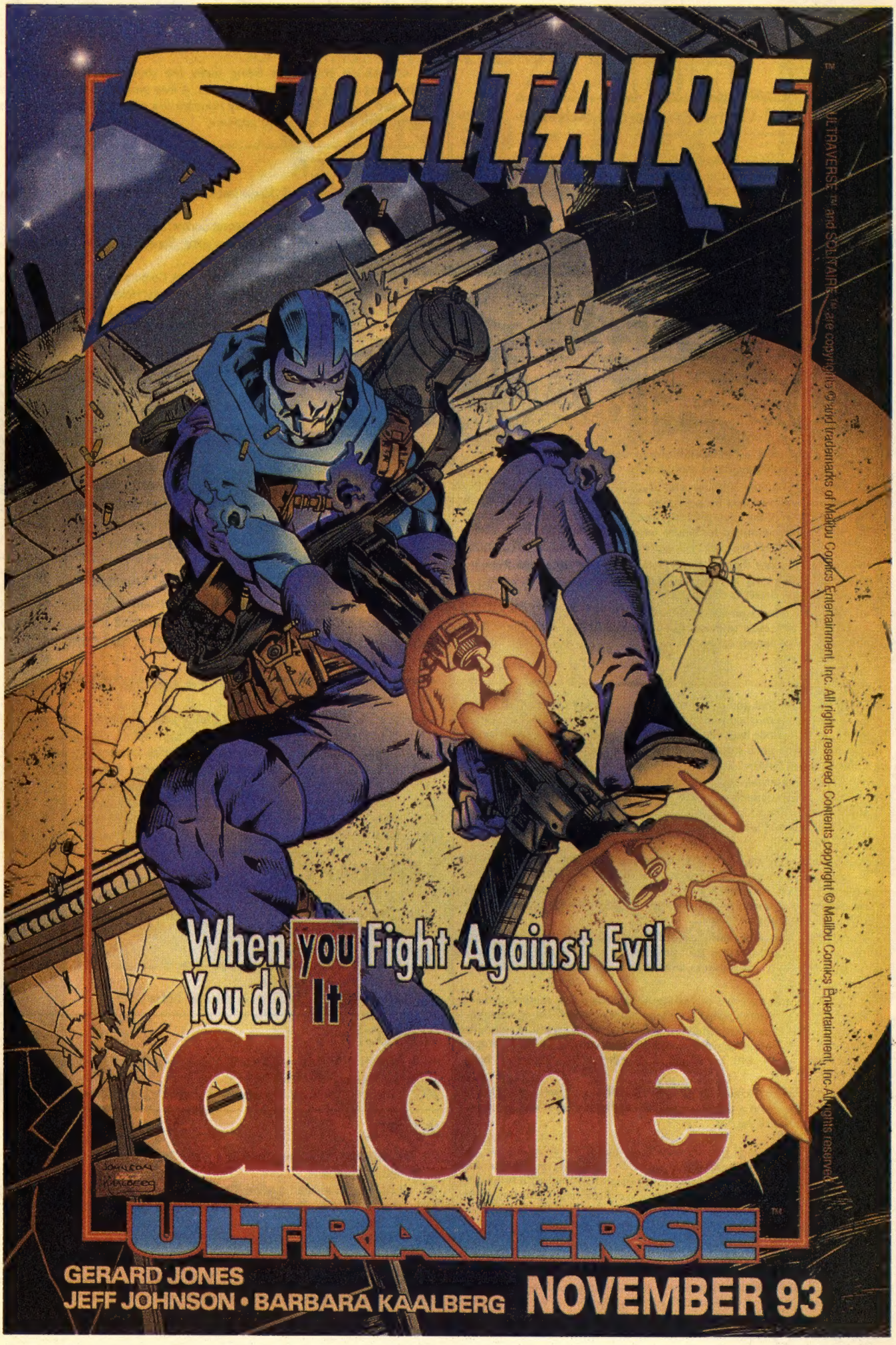
Battleground 3 is out now! What the reviewers said: "A tremendous read", "Excellent", "There is literally nothing else to read if you want to discuss comics", "Thoroughly enjoyable", "A breath of fresh air", "Join in the fun now". Shouldn't you be reading it? Send £1.75, cheques/POs payable to Andy Brewer, 58 Kingsley Court, Aylesbury Close, Salford, Manchester M5 4EZ.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Comic Book Retail Agreement

CoBRA

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An at-a-glance guide, this listing gives the dates and locations of all forthcoming events advertised this issue. A free service for advertisers, the bracketed number after each entry denotes the page this issue where the advertisement with full details appears.

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FEBRUARY

5/2 **NOTTINGHAM:** Comic Mart, Victoria Leisure Centre, Gelding St .... (p 65)
13/2 **LONDON:** Card Mart, Camden Centre, Bidborough St, London WC1 . (p 75)
19/2 **SHEFFIELD:** Comic Mart & Film Fair, Main Hall, Sheffield Hallam University, Howard Street, Sheffield ..... (p 65)
20/2 **LONDON:** Comicbook Marketplace: Special Edition, Royal National Hotel, Bedford Way, London WC1 ..... (p 15)
26/2 **CARDIFF:** Comic Mart, The Central Hotel, St Mary's St ..... (p 23)

MARCH

19/3 **BIRMINGHAM:** Comic, Film & Sci-Fi Fair, Forte Crest Hotel, Smallbrook, Queensway, Birmingham 5 ..... (p 84)
20/3 **LONDON:** Comicbook Marketplace, Camden Centre, Bidborough St .. (p 62)

APRIL

2/4 **GLOUCESTER:** Comic, Film & Sci-Fi Fair, Gloucester Leisure Centre, Bruton Way, Gloucester ..... (p 84)
3/4 **LONDON:** Card Mart, Camden Centre, Bidborough St, London WC1 . (p 75)
23/4 **MANCHESTER:** Comic & Card Mart Special, Sachas Hotel, Tibb Street, Piccadilly, Manchester ..... (p 65)
30/4 **CARDIFF:** Comic Mart, The Central Hotel, St Mary's St ..... (p 23)

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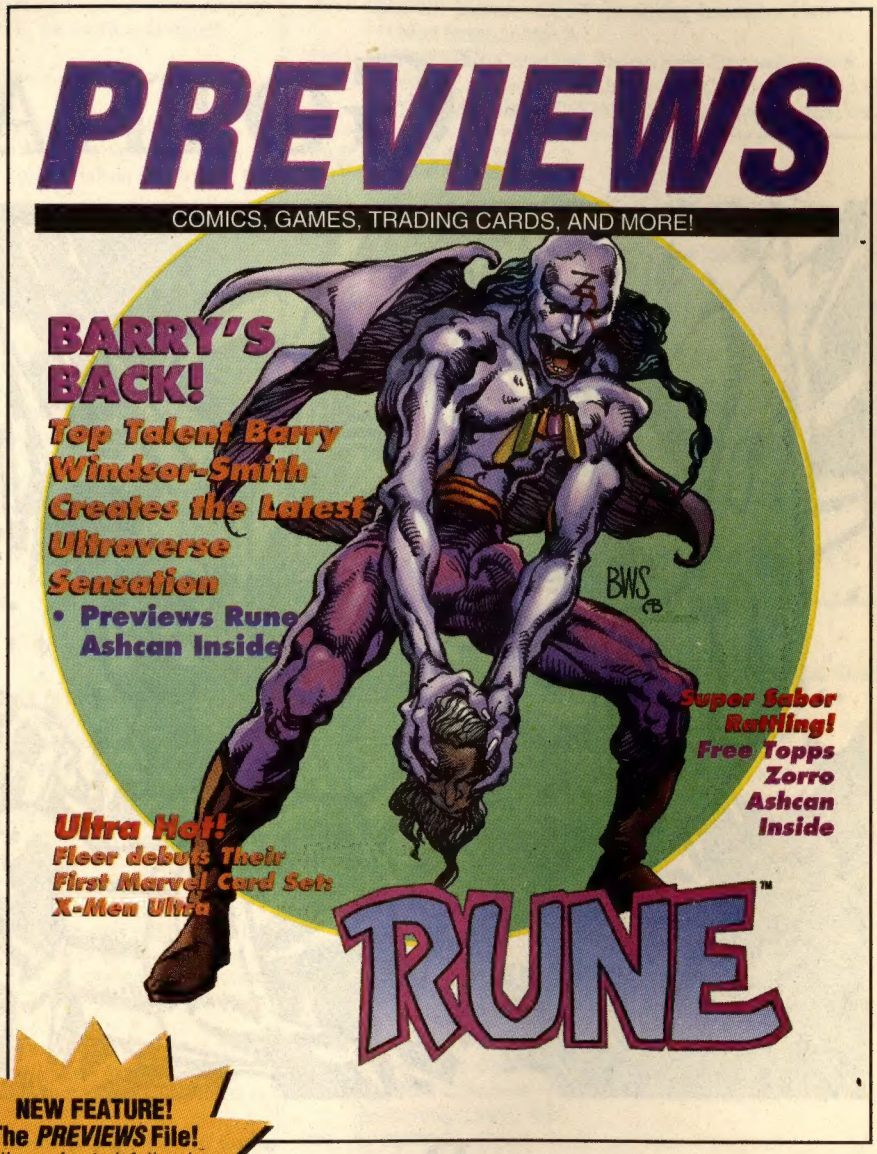
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